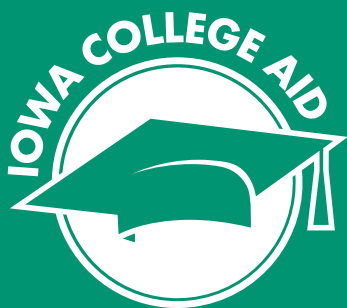


FY 2018

ANNUAL REPORT



At the close of every fiscal year, we take a look back at how Iowa College Aid has worked toward its mission of supporting Iowans on their path to higher education. The end of FY 2018 finds us reflecting on a period of changes for our agency. You can find details beginning on page 12, but in short:

- We neared the end of our 2016–18 Strategic Plan and began looking ahead to a new plan informed by recommendations from the National Center for Higher Education Management Systems.
- The Future Ready Iowa Act was passed and signed, creating two new scholarships to be administered by Iowa College Aid.
- Two loan repayment/forgiveness programs for health professionals were combined.
- We entered into a new FAFSA data sharing agreement that gives us more accurate student-level data than we’ve ever had.
- The composition of our Board of Commissioners was changed to reflect our evolving role.
- New staff positions were added to our Community Engagement and Research teams.



*Karen Misjak,
Executive Director*

Even our physical location is in transition. The end of the fiscal year found us packing up our offices for an impending move from Des Moines’ East Village to a spot at the south edge of downtown.

However, a few central principles remain unchanged. Education beyond high school is still crucial to success—both for individual Iowans and for the state as a whole. And our commitment to helping all Iowans achieve that education is unwavering.

In this Annual Report, you’ll find plenty of numbers and other hard data that help explain the scope and depth of programs. But you should also be on the lookout for snapshots throughout the report—you’ll find an index of them on page 3. These are the stories of real Iowans who work on the front lines through our programs, or who benefit from them. These are the actual people for whom College Changes Everything.

Karen Misjak
Executive Director
Iowa College Aid

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ABOUT IOWA COLLEGE AID





Our mission

We advocate for and support Iowans as they explore, finance and complete educational opportunities beyond high school to increase family and community success.

Our motto

Because college changes everything.

Our vision

All Iowans can achieve an education beyond high school.

Our values

- Put students first.
- Respect and honor the dignity of each other and all those we serve.
- Uphold the public trust.
- Create and nurture internal and external partnerships that benefit our customers.
- Provide services to our customers that exceed expectations and address their changing needs.
- Develop and empower a motivated, compassionate, professional and accountable team.
- Utilize evidence-based decision-making.
- Strive to improve internal and external communication and increase transparency.

The Iowa College Student Aid Commission (Iowa College Aid) is the state agency that makes postsecondary education and training accessible for all Iowans. We are the only Iowa state agency with that sole focus.

In the past year, we helped nearly 20,000 Iowans pay for college through the administration of state-funded grants, scholarships and loan repayment programs. Our agency administered more than \$63 million in state financial aid that went directly to cover Iowans' postsecondary education costs or to repay their student loans. We administered these programs with a state-funded administrative budget of \$429,279—less than 1 percent of the state's appropriations for financial aid.

As Emily Barske, a GEAR UP Scholarship recipient, puts it: “Giving a scholarship helps students realize they are worth being invested in.” (More about Emily on page 39.) The Iowa Legislature continues to provide significant investment to the students of Iowa through grant and scholarship programs, directly reducing their college costs.

Beyond our efforts to help Iowans pay for higher education, our agency works to promote a college-going culture at the school, community and state levels. Through a federal GEAR UP grant, we help 12 low-income school districts develop resources to make college possible, serving more than 8,000 students in FY 2018.

The Course to College program and the Iowa Go Alliance Academy continuing education courses provide high school administrators, counselors and teachers with knowledge and tools to increase college access and success. In FY 2018, 141 high schools took part in at least one component of Course to College, and more than 150 education professionals took at least one Go Alliance Academy course.

The Local College Access Network Grant Series supports locally driven, collaborative efforts to identify and address systemic gaps, inequities and barriers that hinder individuals from attending college. In FY 2018, 10 grants in various stages of the series were awarded, totaling more than \$500,000. To date, 12 communities have been awarded grants in the series.

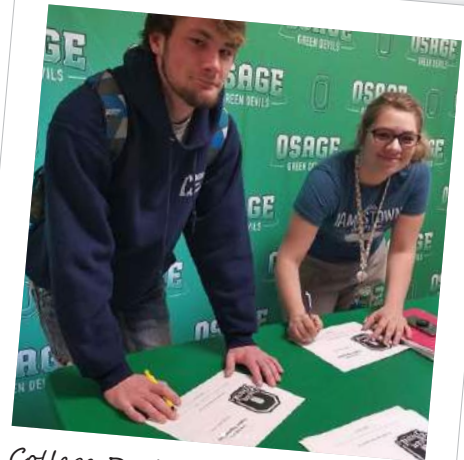
The Course to College Corps program places national service members (AmeriCorps and VISTA) in six Iowa communities to help schools build capacity and to work one-on-one with students. In those communities, 12 Course to College Corps members served at least 460 students directly in FY 2018.

Iowa College Aid also supports higher education in Iowa through our research and program evaluation and through the authorization of institutions to offer degree-granting programs in the state.

As you'll see on the next page, our role has greatly evolved and expanded since our inception in 1963. Still, throughout the past 55 years, our agency has always remained dedicated to advocating for and supporting Iowans as they explore, finance and complete postsecondary education.



Banners displaying our core messages



College Decision Day in Osage (part of Course to College)



Celebrating GEAR UP Week at the Iowa Capitol

- 1963** Higher Education Facilities Commission created to administer federal grants for construction of academic facilities
- 1960s** Becomes state-designated guarantor for the Federal Family Education Loan Program (FFELP); begins administering state grants, scholarships and loan forgiveness
- 1969** Iowa Tuition Grant begins
- 1973** Iowa Vocational-Technical Tuition Grant begins
- 1978** Renamed Iowa College Aid Commission
- 1996** Iowa National Guard Educational Assistance Grant (NGEAP) begins
- 2004** Offers College & Career Information System (Choices)
- 2007** All Iowa Opportunity Scholarship begins
- 2008** First GEAR UP Iowa grant begins
- 2009** I Have a Plan Iowa (IHAPI) begins
- 2010** FFELP eliminated; sponsors Iowa Financial Literacy Program (IFLP)
- 2012** FFELP portfolio transferred to Great Lakes Higher Education Corporation; Kibbie Grant (Iowa Skilled Workforce Shortage Tuition Grant) begins
- 2013** Course to College (then known as 3-Step Process) begins
- 2014** First Local College Access Network (LCAN) begins; second GEAR UP Iowa grant begins
- 2015** IFLP transferred to Iowa Insurance Division
- 2016** Iowa Go Alliance Academy begins
- 2017** Course to College Corps begins
- 2018** Future Ready Iowa Act signed into law

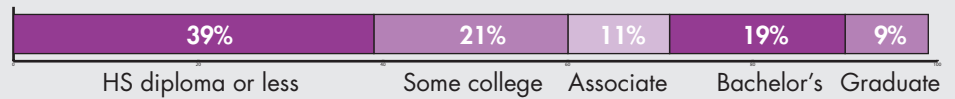
HIGHER EDUCATION IN IOWA

Currently, 61 percent of Iowans have at least some postsecondary education, which is comparable to the national rate of 60 percent but still almost 9 percentage points short of the Future Ready Iowa goal for 2025. (Based on projections that 68 percent of jobs in Iowa will require some postsecondary credential by 2025, the state has set a goal that 70 percent of Iowans have at least some education or training beyond high school by that year.)

Movement toward this goal will not only improve Iowa's economic competitiveness, it will also prepare individual Iowans for economic success. For example, Iowa workers with bachelor's degrees earn almost twice as much as workers with less than a high school diploma. The 2016 unemployment rate in Iowa for workers who hold at least a bachelor's degree was less than one-fifth the rate for those who stopped short of a high school diploma.

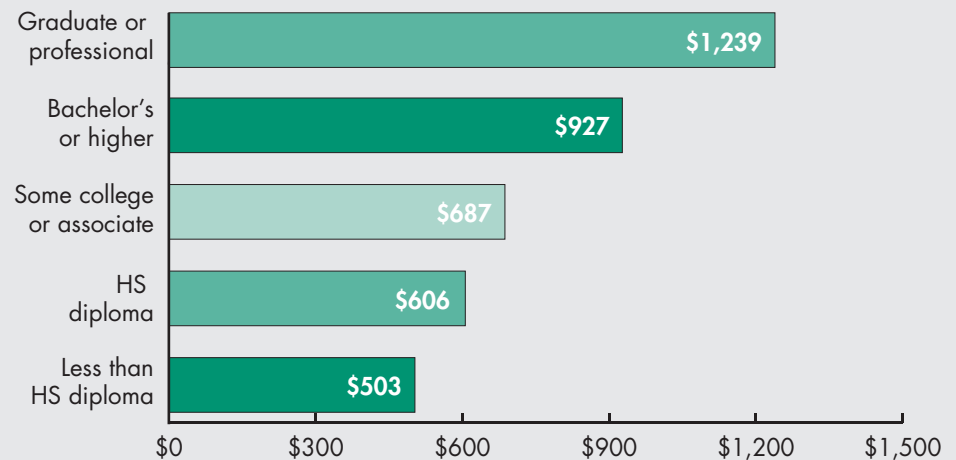
Through the administration of state-funded grants and scholarships as well as multiple community engagement programs that promote college access, success and completion, Iowa College Aid is committed to raising the level of educational attainment in Iowa. As you will see in the following pages, many of our programs are focused on low-income, minority, first-generation and other underrepresented students. Closing the college achievement gap for these fast-growing groups of Iowans will be crucial to meeting Iowa's goals.

Education levels in Iowa



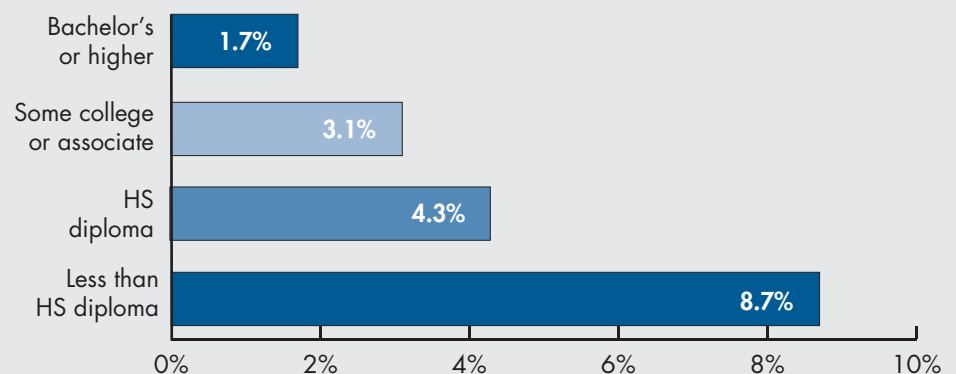
Source: U.S. Census American FactFinder

Median weekly earnings in Iowa



Sources: U.S. Census Bureau, 2016 American Community Survey 1-Year Estimates

Unemployment rates in Iowa



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2016 American Community Survey 1-Year Estimates



More information is available in "Condition of Higher Education in Iowa 2018," downloadable at IowaCollegeAid.gov/Condition18.

COMMISSIONERS



Ms. Janet Adams, Chair
Represents general public*



Ms. Kathleen Mulholland,
Vice Chair
Represents general public*



Dr. Michael Ash
President, Southeastern Community College
Represents community colleges*



Ms. Mary Lynn Pudenz
Represents parents of college students*



Mr. Manny Atwood
School Counselor, Central Decatur School
Represents K–12 practitioners*



Dr. Mark Putnam
President, Central College
Represents private colleges and universities*



Rep. Cecil Dolecheck
Represents Iowa House**



Sen. Herman Quirmbach
Represents Iowa Senate**



Sen. Jeff Edler
Represents Iowa Senate**



Mr. Doug Shull
Represents general public*



Mr. Timothy Fitzgibbon
Represents general public*



Mr. Jeremy Varner
Division Administrator, Division of Community Colleges, Iowa Department of Education
Represents Iowa Department of Education



Ms. Rachael Johnson
Regent, Board of Regents
Represents Board of Regents



Rep. Cindy Winckler
Represents Iowa House**



Ms. Cassidy Krause
Represents Iowa college students*

*Appointed by the Governor
**Ex officio (nonvoting)

NOTE: Commission as of June 30, 2018.

Iowa College Aid strategic goals, 2016–18

1. Statewide engagement to increase postsecondary attainment.
2. Coordinated outreach/communications supporting our mission and vision.
3. We continually strive to improve organizational performance.
4. Increased funding for students and student services.

A new strategic plan based on the National Center for Higher Education Management Systems report (see page 12) will be adopted in FY 2019.



Iowa Governor Kim Reynolds' goals

Iowa College Aid Program	Goal: Educating Our Children for the Knowledge Economy	Goal: Training Iowans for the Jobs of Tomorrow
Scholarships & Grants	Removing financial barriers to higher education by administering between \$65 million and \$70 million in need-based state aid every year	Targeting specific areas of emphasis through the Skilled Workforce Shortage Grant and loan repayment programs that serve teachers and health care workers in the areas of highest need
GEAR UP Iowa	Helping students in low-income school districts access and achieve success in college	Providing early career exposure through job site visits and career academies
LCANs (Local College Access Networks)	Working with communities to build sustainable support networks that will ensure students are prepared to access and achieve success in college	Working with business and industry leaders to identify needs in individual communities and ensure students are trained to fulfill each community's future workforce needs
Course to College	Ensuring that students know the complete steps to successfully transition from high school to college or postsecondary training	
Course to College Corps	Placing AmeriCorps and VISTA members to work directly with school districts and communities to guide students through the college-going process	
Go Alliance Academy	Providing advanced training to develop the capacity of counselors and other school staff to support students on their paths to college and career readiness	
Research & Evaluation	Evaluating the impact of Iowa College Aid programs on students' college access, success and completion	
Postsecondary Registration	Authorizing higher education institutions to do business in Iowa to ensure consumer protection	



NCHEMS report

In September 2017, Iowa College Aid began working with the National Center for Higher Education Management Systems (NCHEMS), a private nonprofit consulting firm. In February 2018, NCHEMS presented four recommendations, which will be evaluated and considered as the 2019–21 Strategic Plan is developed:

1. Recreate Iowa College Aid with a new name and a revised mission. Four primary components of the new mission should be:
 - Providing policy leadership in service to the needs of students and the state's needs.
 - Managing programs, namely the state's aid programs and postsecondary registration obligations.
 - Providing independent and impartial research and analysis, especially with respect to college affordability.
 - Promoting a college-going culture, chiefly by coordinating efforts across the state, developing and advancing strategies to reach out to adults, and seeking partnerships with existing entities.
2. Align Iowa College Aid's structure with the redefined mission. The structure will need to meet the following criteria:
 - Provide a competitive compensation for its executive director.
 - Maintain employees' eligibility for state benefits.
 - Receive and expend funds from federal, state, and philanthropic resources.
 - Be empowered to access student-level data from all Iowa postsecondary institutions receiving state support.
 - Be supported financially at a level sufficient to achieve its mission.
3. Provide necessary financing for the redefined agency to accomplish the missions specified in the first recommendation. This requires the state to acknowledge that core functions of Iowa College Aid are state responsibilities and require adequate state support.
4. Simplify and consolidate aid programs that have minimal impact, and update remaining aid programs so that eligibility requirements are not based on sector of attendance.

Future Ready Iowa

In March 2018, Iowa Governor Kim Reynolds signed the Future Ready Iowa Act, which had unanimously passed both the Iowa House of Representatives and the Iowa Senate. The Act created an apprenticeship development program, a volunteer mentor program, a youth internship pilot program and an employer innovation fund, as well as two new scholarship programs to be administered by Iowa College Aid. The Future Ready Iowa Skilled Workforce Last-Dollar Scholarship will be applicable to the completion of credentials up to associate degrees that lead to employment in high-demand jobs. The Future Ready Iowa Skilled Workforce Grant will be available to Iowans who attained at least half the necessary credits to obtain a bachelor's degree in a high-demand career field but left higher education at least two years ago. Both programs become effective July 1, 2019. Iowa College Aid Executive Director Karen Misjak served on the Future Ready Alliance, and several staff members served on working groups.



*Iowa College Aid staff
at the statewide
Future Ready Iowa Summit*

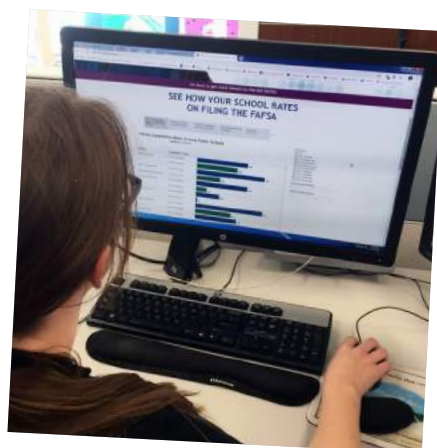
Changes to programs

In addition to the Future Ready Iowa Act, the 2018 Iowa Legislature enacted the following changes affecting Iowa College Aid, effective July 1, 2018:

- The Rural Iowa Advanced Registered Nurse and Physician Assistant Loan Repayment Program and the Registered Nurse and Nurse Educator Loan Forgiveness Program are combined to form the Health Care Profession Loan Repayment Program.
- “Eligible surviving child students” (students under age 26 who are the children of a police officer, firefighter, sheriff, deputy sheriff or other peace officer killed in the line of duty) are inserted as the second priority group in the All Iowa Opportunity Scholarship.
- The National Guard Educational Assistance Program now requires that applicants file a FAFSA in addition to the Iowa Financial Aid Application.

Statewide FAFSA data sharing agreement

Through a data sharing agreement with the Iowa Department of Education, Iowa College Aid implemented a new, more effective method to track FAFSA completion rates among Iowa’s high school seniors in 2017–18. The agreement lets Iowa College Aid compare the list of Iowans who have completed FAFSAs against the list of currently enrolled seniors in every public high school in the state. Previously, the agency’s research staff estimated which FAFSA filers were high school seniors based on age and education level. The public-facing FAFSA.Iowa.gov site tracks FAFSA completion rates for every public high school in the state, as well as completion rates at the district, AEA and state level.



*School-by-school
FAFSA tracking site*

Board of Commissioners

The composition of our Board of Commissioners changed in 2017–18 to better reflect the mission and evolving role of our agency. Lenders and borrowers are no longer represented, and new positions were created for a K–12 practitioner and a parent of a college student. An additional position representing the general public brings the number of Commissioners to 15. Meetings held in 2017–18:

- July 21, 2017 (by telephone)
- September 15, 2017
- November 17, 2017
- February 23, 2018
- May 18, 2018

Meeting minutes are available at IowaCollegeAid.gov/content/iowa-college-aid-board-meetings

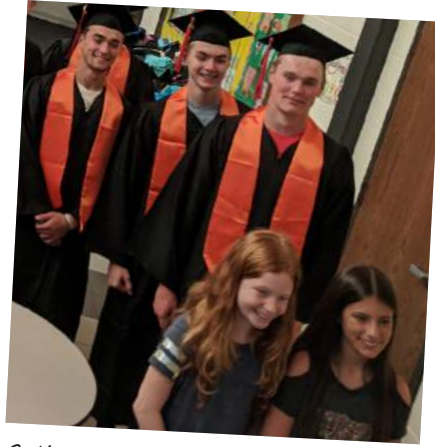
COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT



COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT



*College Decision Day
at Muscatine High School*

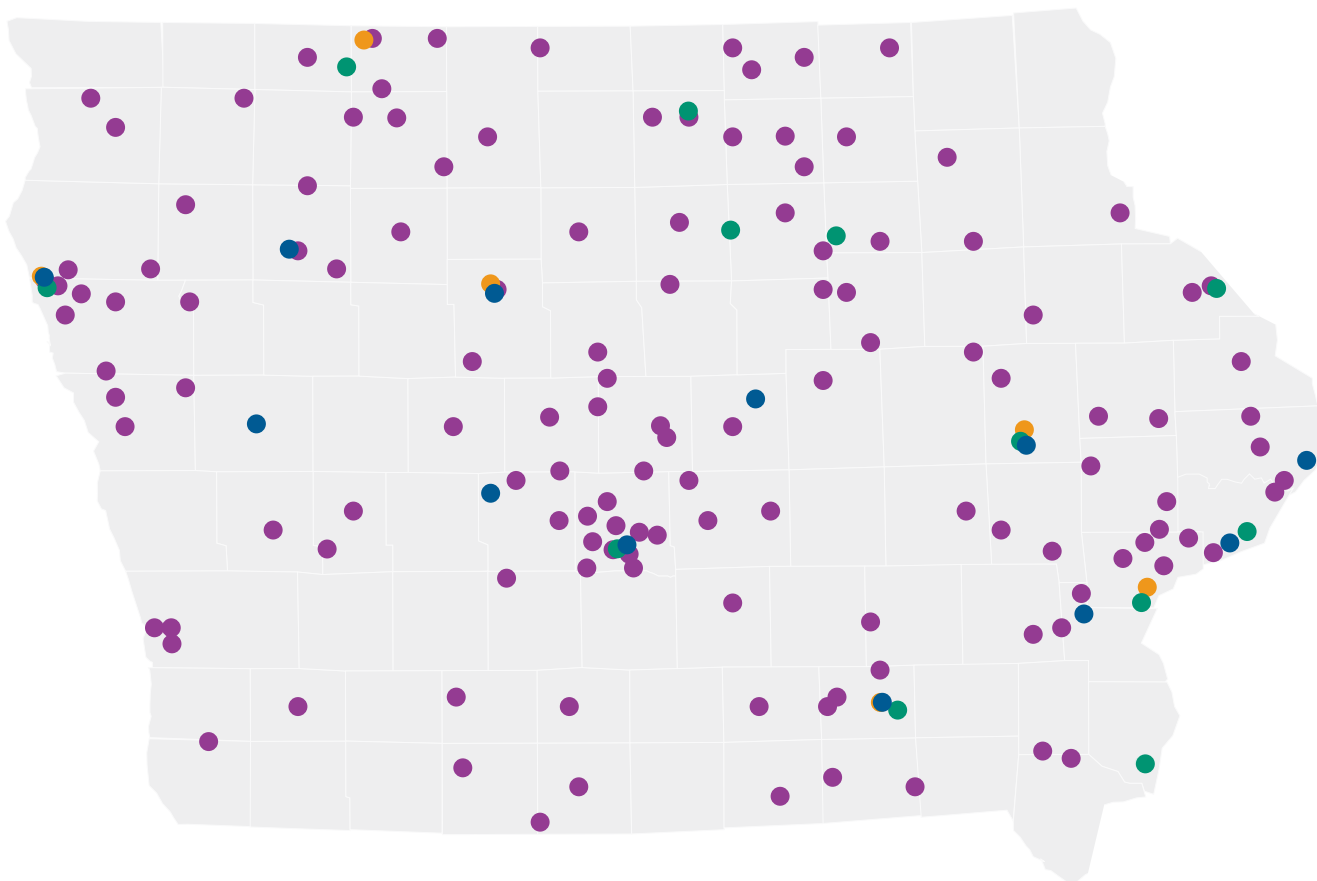


*College Walk at Sioux City
East High School*



*Diversity assembly in Ottumwa
—a GEAR UP, LCAN and Course
to College Corps community!*

Iowa College Aid's Community Engagement initiatives help to build a college-going culture in Iowa. Through partnerships with schools, school districts and communities, we are able to reach students and families all over the state.



● GEAR UP Iowa ● LCAN Grant Series ● Course to College ● Course to College Corps



Community Engagement in Muscatine: Positive effects rippling out

“We all win when our community becomes better educated,” says Kim Warren, director of Aligned Impact Muscatine (AIM), the Local College Access Network. That’s why so many people and organizations are working in partnership with Iowa College Aid to improve college access, success and completion in Muscatine.

“This is a community that really comes together to address issues,” Kim says. “All the sectors—business, education, government, nonprofit, etc.—have a long history of coming together to solve complex problems. We already had all the players at the table wanting to work together. The Collective Impact model, Iowa College Aid staff and LCAN funding gave us the tools to do the work.”

That work benefits potential college students of all ages. For example, AIM launched an initiative this year for adult learners who want to earn high school equivalency, after conducting surveys and focus groups with adults enrolled in high school equivalency or English language classes, living at a local homeless shelter and living in public housing.

“It’s someone to mentor them, not just with the academic stuff, but resources—child care, transportation—whatever is going to help them reach their college and career goals,” says Jason Walker, Assistant Dean of Adult Education at Eastern Iowa Community Colleges. “Maybe it’s helping them figure out what they want to be when they grow up, even if they’re 50. High school equivalency is one of their goals, but often that’s a step toward something else.”

At the high school level, Jennifer Zamora works through Course to College Corps as a College Access Coach. “The students that we target are students who need our support,” she says. “Some students have only Spanish-speaking parents. Having someone who can communicate with parents in Spanish can be the first step to making them feel welcome.”

Kim and Jennifer are in a special position to understand the importance of reaching first-generation students—they were both first-generation students themselves. “I know that going to college completely changed the trajectory of my life for the better,” Kim says. Adds Jennifer: “Along my college experience, I have met many people who have supported me. I just want to give back and be that support for someone else.”

While all these efforts move individuals farther along in their education, the wider community benefits as well. “When people start reaching their goals and stabilizing their lives, children are better taken care of and have better role models,” Jason says. “Employers get the skilled workers they’re clamoring for. Homeownership goes up. Crime rates go down. We see more participation in our schools and our community. It has all those positive ripple effects.”



*Kim Warren, Director of
Aligned Impact Muscatine*



*Jason Walker, Assistant Dean
of Adult Education at Eastern
Iowa Community Colleges*



*Jennifer Zamora,
Course to College Corps
College Access Coach*



Community Engagement in Sioux City: A shared goal to help students

“The college-going process can be overwhelming,” says Jeff Lucas, School Counselor at the Sioux City Career Academy. “I wish every student knew that there are people who want to help—and who love helping them make their postsecondary plan a reality.”

Jeff is one of those people, and there are many more. With an LCAN, GEAR UP Iowa, Course to College and Course to College Corps, Sioux City is a showcase of Iowa College Aid’s Community Engagement programs in action.

Jamie Hoffman, the Course to College Corps College Access Coach for 2017–18, has seen growing participation in the College Application Campaign, FAFSA Completion Initiative and College Decision Day. “Many students are first-generation college students,” she says. “Not only do the students not understand the process of college and the need for postsecondary education, but many of the families are uninformed.”

Travis Perry, Director of Sioux City CAN, also says more students and families need help understanding the many postsecondary options available. He cites local statistics that graduates of colleges or apprenticeships earn more money than workers with less education. “But the benefits go beyond a bigger paycheck,” he says. “There’s real value in pursuing and completing a postsecondary credential. You gain self-confidence and a strong sense of accomplishment.”

All three of these college access professionals draw their own sense of accomplishment from the work they do. “Working with students on their postsecondary plans has been my favorite part of being a school counselor,” Jeff says. “To hear and see when students go on and are successful in their postsecondary endeavors is awesome.”

Jamie says she was “honored” to provide support for college-bound students. “Knowing I helped even one student to go on and live out their dream is all I need,” she says.

Travis points to the community teamwork evident in Sioux City CAN as his favorite part of the job. “Seeing our Leadership Team, which is made up of people from a variety of backgrounds, come together to create our Common Agenda was really exciting and rewarding,” he says. “It’s great to see collaboration between the leaders in our community. ... Collective Impact is the right approach for Sioux City because we have a wealth of community resources, a shared commitment to education and a real need for higher postsecondary rates. Almost every day I see people coming together around shared goals and collaborating to find solutions.”



*Jeff Lucas, School Counselor
at Sioux City Career Academy*



*Jamie Hoffman,
Course to College Corps
College Access Coach*



*Travis Perry, Director
of Sioux City CAN*



*"Becoming Future Proof"
GEAR UP Iowa conference*

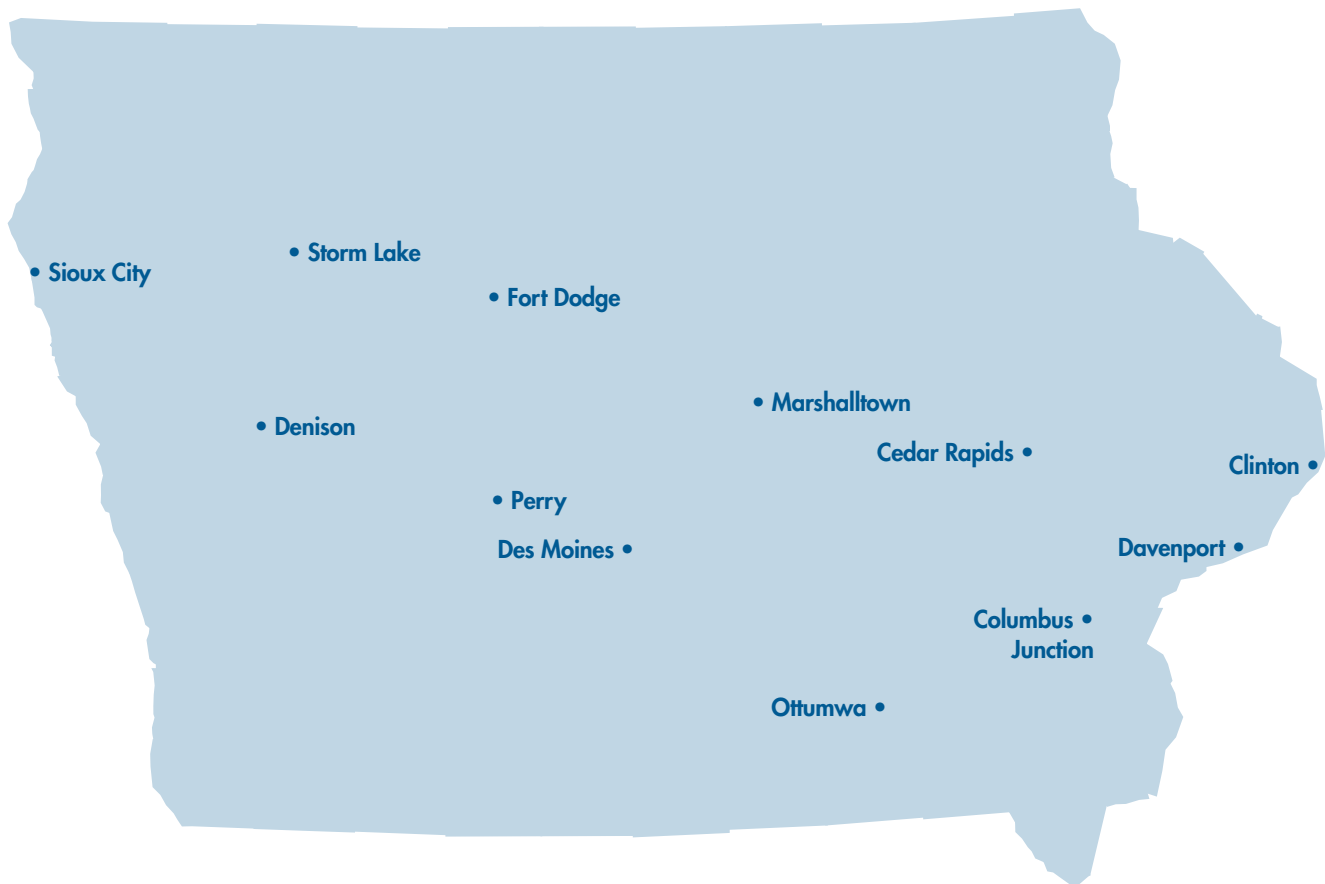


*Student to Employer (S2E)
initiative ribbon-cutting*



*Student summit at
Grand View University*

Research has found that low-income students are the least likely to go to college, and Iowa must address this gap to meet its education goals. GEAR UP Iowa is a \$22.4 million federal grant that guides 8,000+ students in 12 low-income districts (26 schools) toward college. GEAR UP Iowa follows students from seventh grade through their first year in college, providing services to prepare them academically, financially and inspirationally to enroll and succeed in higher education.



2017-18 in review

July 2017

Four GEAR UP Iowa students attended the Youth Leadership Summit in San Francisco. The four, all of whom will be first-generation college students, were among 150 students from 21 states ranging from rising high school freshmen to rising college freshmen.

August 2017

The current GEAR UP Iowa student cohort entered 10th grade.

September 2017

Governor Kim Reynolds proclaimed September 17–23 as GEAR UP Week in Iowa. The signing was held in her office surrounded by 24 GEAR UP Iowa students and eight educators from Perry, Storm Lake, Sioux City and Des Moines, as well as Iowa College Aid staff.

November 2017

GEAR UP Iowa announces that families can pick up a \$25 College Savings Iowa voucher every time they attend a GEAR UP Iowa family event.

January 2018

Iowa College Aid began partnering with Cambridge Educational Services to bring ACT test prep to GEAR UP Iowa students in all 12 partner school districts.

February 2018

More than 100 education professionals and GEAR UP Iowa staff from around the state gathered in Des Moines for GEAR UP Iowa's third annual conference. The theme was "Becoming Future Proof."

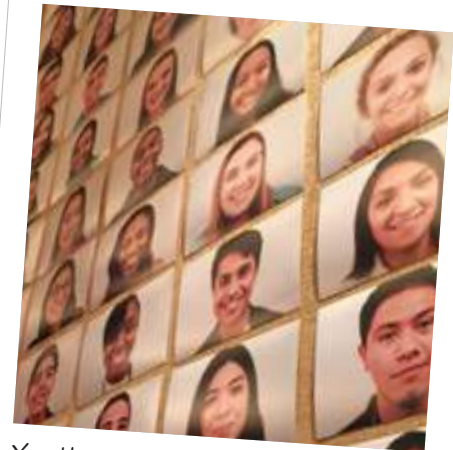
April 2018

About 300 GEAR UP Iowa students from Perry and Des Moines got hands-on lessons in science, technology, engineering and math during STEM at the Ballpark. Sessions included treating sports injuries, calculating the fertilizer needs of ballfield turf and running the ballpark's broadcast booth.

June 2018

GEAR UP Iowa began a series of summer summits, held at five college campuses around the state. This spread-out series format replaced the single, multi-day summit offered in previous years.

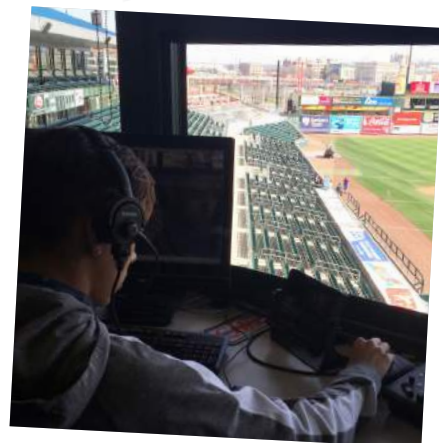
The Downtown Des Moines Chamber announced a partnership with GEAR UP Iowa and five other community programs. The Student to Employer (S2E) initiative will connect students with Chamber members who can offer job shadows, internships and other career exposure.



*Youth Leadership Summit
in San Francisco*



*Joshua Barr, Des Moines Civil
& Human Rights Director,
at "Becoming Future Proof"*

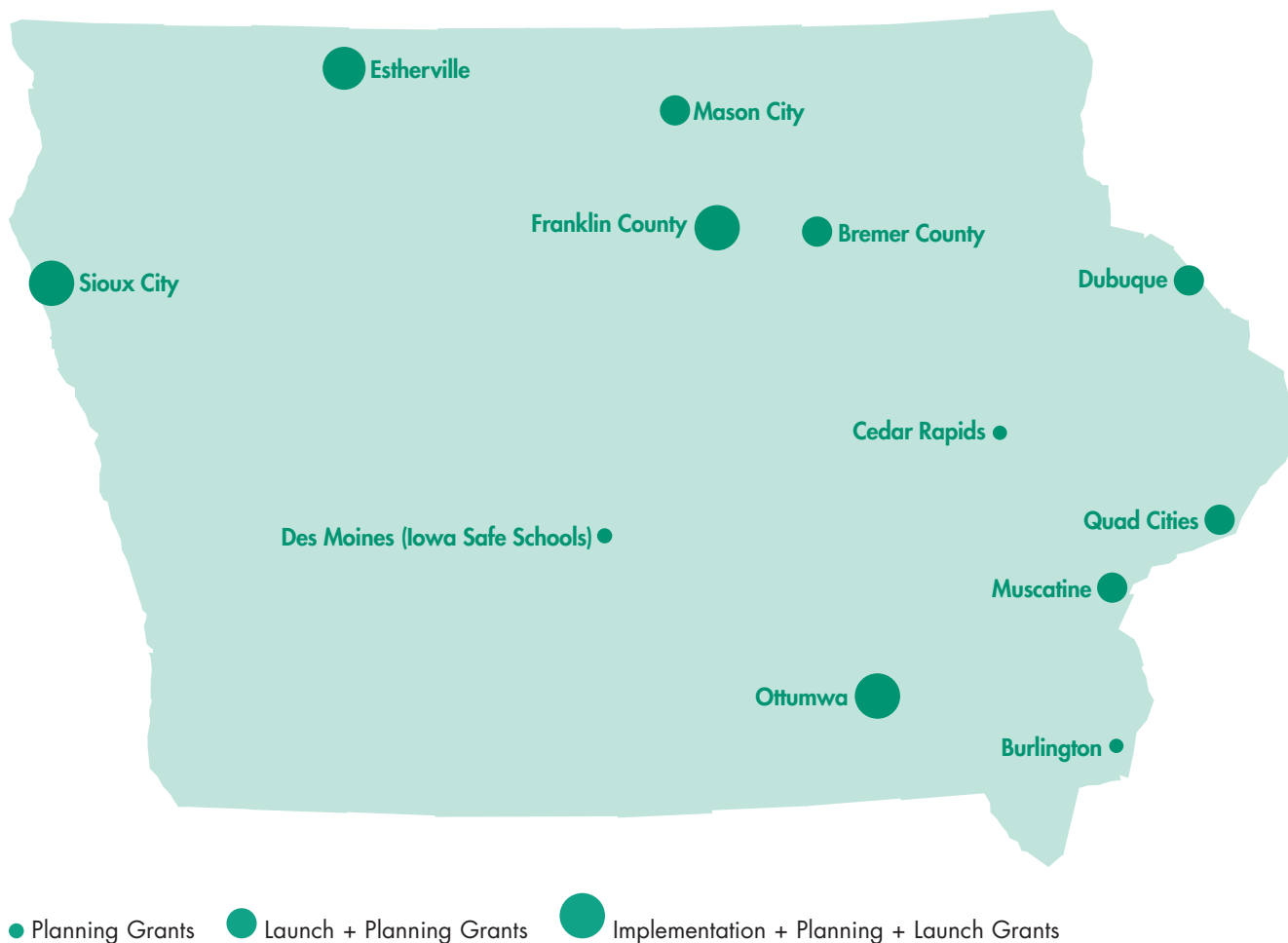


*STEM at the Ballpark, learning
to run the broadcast booth*

Local College Access Networks (LCANs) meet community education needs through collaborative efforts. Iowa College Aid provides funding, training and technical assistance to align the efforts of education, business, government, philanthropy and nonprofits through the Collective Impact framework. Leaders from all these sectors assess a community's resources and needs, then create a common agenda to increase college access, enrollment and completion to meet workforce demands.

LCANs begin with Planning Grants (up to \$20,000 a year for up to two years) and then are eligible to apply for Launch Grants (up to \$60,000 a year for up to two years), Implementation Grants (up to \$40,000 a year for up to two years) and Continuous Improvement Grants (up to \$20,000 a year for up to three years).

In FY 2018, this initiative focused on program development and expansion. Ten grants were awarded, totaling more than \$500,000, and three new Consultants were added to the team to support new grantees. The team also began to “Iowanize” the Collective Impact framework and train LCANs on the model.



2017-18 in review

July 2017

Implementation Grants were awarded to Estherville CAN, Mason City (MCCAN) and Muscatine AIM. Launch Grants were awarded to Franklin County Mission Possible, Sioux City CAN and Ottumwa C³ (Cradle-College-Career).

August 2017

Iowa College Aid staff, LCAN Coordinators and Leadership Team Members attended Maritime Academy—Collective Impact Training in Gaylord, Michigan.

January 2018

Launch Grants were awarded to Dubuque Local College Access Network, Quad Cities Q2030 Workforce and Career Ready Bremer County. A Planning Grant was awarded to Iowa Safe Schools.

March 2018

Iowa College Aid was invited to be a “Funder Community of Practice” through the Collective Impact Foundation, joining agencies like the Annie E. Casey Foundation, Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation and others who provide grant funding to communities using the Collective Impact Framework.

April 2018

Iowa College Aid staff and LCAN representatives attended the national Collective Impact convening in Austin, Texas.

May 2018

LCAN coordinators and leaders from across the state convened in Des Moines to network and develop their knowledge of the Collective Impact process. The all-day convening was the first in a series to be facilitated by Iowa College Aid staff.



Hampton Mission Possible: A brighter future for her family

“I felt like I could do anything in this life.” That’s how Susana Calles felt when she earned her welding certificate this past spring.

As a mom of five, Susana wanted a career that could give her family a better future. “But I was a single parent, and my children were young,” she says. “With all of that weighing on my shoulders, I didn’t think I could do it, and I didn’t have the money to do it.”

Susana turned to Hampton Mission Possible, the Franklin County LCAN, for help with her English skills and with finding a certification program. Soon she was enrolled in evening classes at North Iowa Area Community College’s Production Welding program.

“I would arrive home to my little ones waiting to hug me, and they would ask what had I done at school,” Susana says. “We would talk about it, and they would tell me how happy they were for me. ... I feel very happy, and my future will be much better because I have learned a skill for my work. Thank you, Mission Possible, for your continued support and for helping me connect with area partners to make this happen!”



*Susana Calles,
certified welder*



College Decision Day assembly at Perry High School

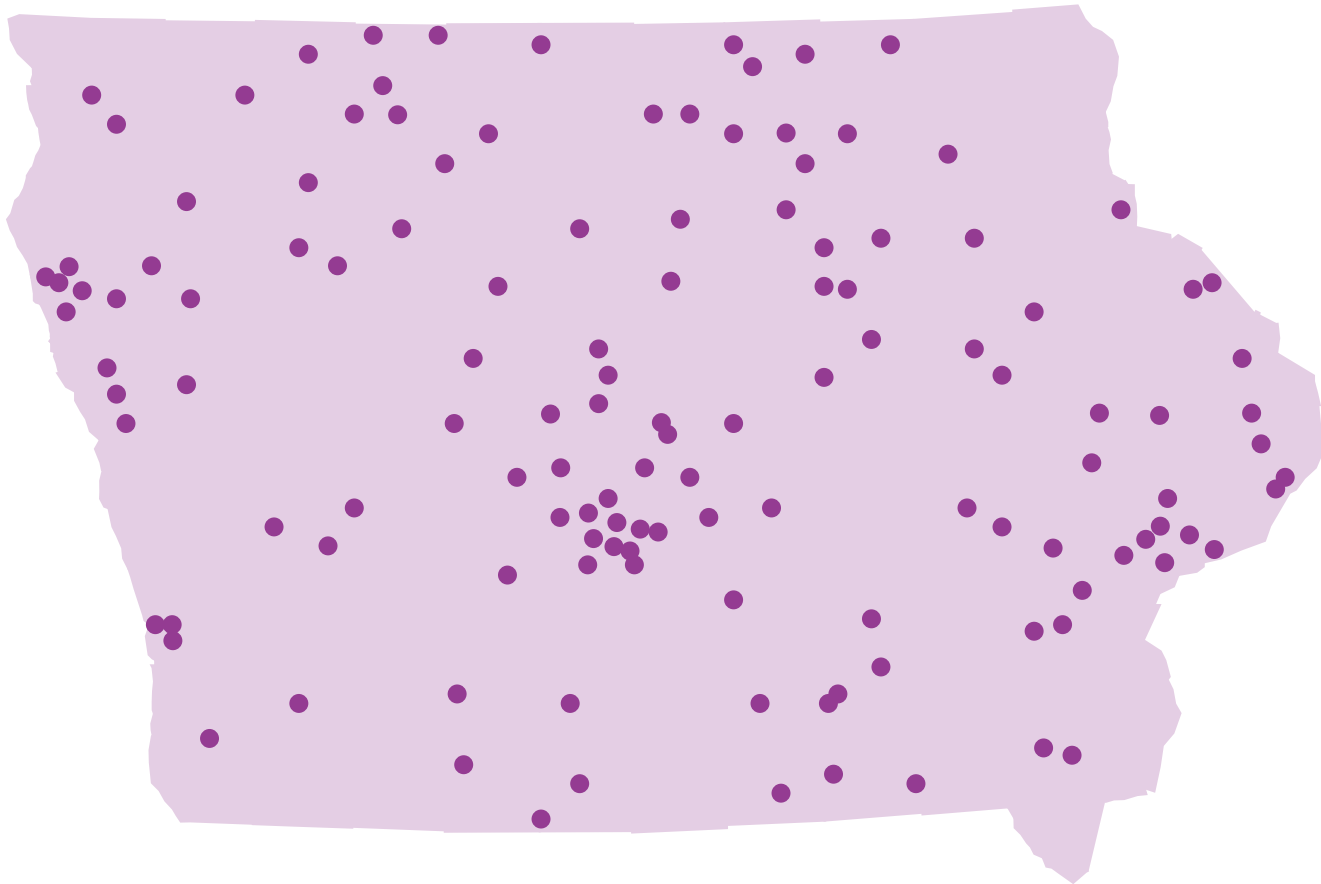


Governor Kim Reynolds' FAFSA news conference at Saydel High School



College Decision Day decorations at Clarke Community High School

Course to College is a set of school-based initiatives that guide students and families through the college-going process. Components are Early College Awareness, College Application Campaign, FAFSA Completion Initiative, College Decision Day and Summer Transition. Early College Awareness and Summer Transition were in development in 2017–18 and will become fully integrated in Course to College in 2018–19.



2017–18 in review

College Application Campaign

Ninety-three high schools registered for this fall 2017 effort to help high school seniors, especially those from underserved populations, navigate the college admissions process. Many held in-school events to ensure students applied to at least one college.

FAFSA Completion Initiative

Iowa Governor Kim Reynolds held a news conference at Saydel High School in September 2017 to promote FAFSA completion. Throughout the fall, 141 schools signed up to receive targeted data that allowed them to identify and assist seniors who had not completed a FAFSA. Iowa College Aid provided this student-specific information through partnerships with the U.S. Department of Education, the Iowa Department of Education, Area Education Agencies and schools.

College Decision Day

Thirty-six school and community events were held around Iowa throughout spring 2018 to recognize high school seniors' college and career plans and to inspire underclassmen to continue their education beyond high school. These events were scheduled on or around May 1 to coincide with the date most seniors must inform a college of their plans to enroll.



Course to College in Osceola: Individual guidance for students

“Where do I start?”

“What do I need to do?”

Jennifer Scott, School Counselor at Clarke Community High School, says those are the most common questions she hears from college-bound students.

“I think their biggest barrier is getting enough individual attention to navigate the college-going process,” she says. Jennifer uses all five components of Course to College (Early Awareness, College Application Campaign, FAFSA Completion Initiative, College Decision Day and Summer Transition) to break down that barrier.

“For College Decision Day, I made posters for every senior and put them on the outside of their locker with a balloon,” she says. “The poster had their picture, chosen major and postsecondary institution, and their intended career. Everyone including staff, underclassmen and the Class of 2018 loved seeing what plans each senior had after high school.”

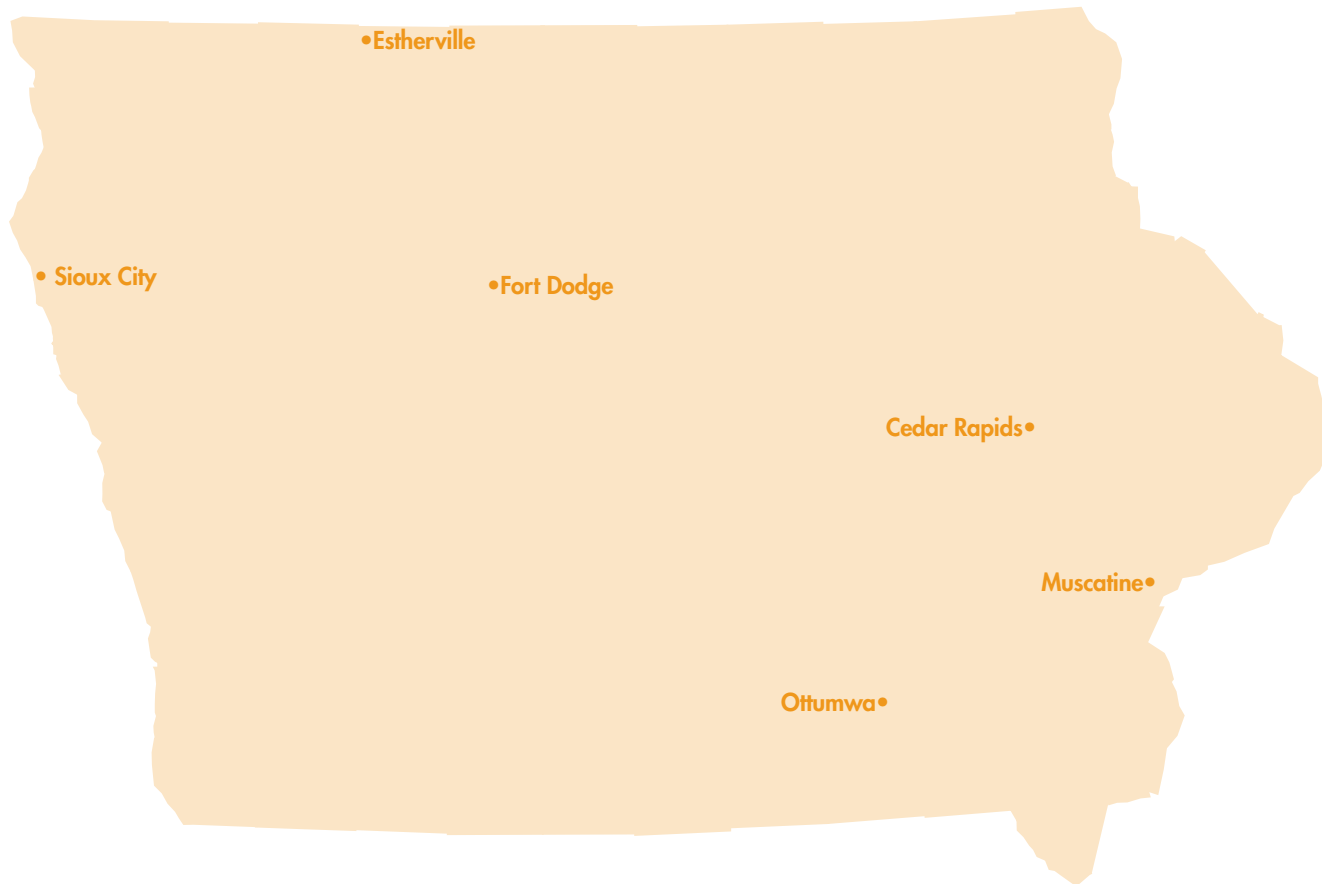
Understanding that students might be headed in many different directions after high school, Jennifer has created Web-based documents where they can identify their pathways and find to-do lists to get started. Options include college, military and on-the-job training. “I wish all students knew that no matter their abilities and circumstances, there is something for them, too,” Jennifer says. “There are options at colleges for skilled trade training all the way to professional degrees.”



*Jennifer Scott, School
Counselor at Clarke
Community High School*

COURSE TO COLLEGE CORPS

Through Course to College Corps, Iowa College Aid placed AmeriCorps State and VISTA members in communities and schools to implement or build college access programming. The program focuses on low-income college-intending students, providing one-on-one assistance for tasks such as FAFSA completion and college selection, as well as capacity building within the high schools. By the end of the academic year: 460 students had at least one interaction with a Corps member; 165 students had two or more interactions; 194 students spent 60 minutes or more with a Corps member; 238 students completed the FAFSA; 62 students received group text messages; and 397 students took part in activities to prevent summer melt.



2017–18 in review

October 2017

Ten Course to College Corps members began work in Cedar Rapids, Estherville, Ottumwa, Muscatine and Sioux City. Two additional members began work in Fort Dodge in December and in Cedar Rapids in March.

February–March 2018

Iowa College Aid staff conducted site visits to the six Course to College Corps host sites.

March–June 2018

Corps members collaborated with Course to College staff to draft Early Awareness toolkits on subjects such as College Fit and Match, College 101 and Getting Into College.

May 2018

Corps members prepared to launch a Summer Transition Texting Campaign to reduce summer melt rates.

Iowa College Aid continued its partnership with the Southern Regional Education Board to bring Go Alliance Academy courses to Iowa school counselors in FY 2018. The program, established in 2016, provided professional development opportunities to help counselors guide students along postsecondary pathways. Enrollment numbers were strong, but participants increasingly indicated that Iowa-specific content would be beneficial. As a result, Iowa College Aid staff and the Go Alliance Academy Advisory Council agreed to develop an entirely new program to meet the needs of Iowa educators. In early 2018, Iowa College Aid began planning to launch an RFP process for course development of a new initiative to replace Go Alliance Academy, to be called the Iowa College & Career Readiness Academy. The contract to develop a suite of five core courses was awarded in June 2018, with launch scheduled for fall 2018.

2017-18 in review

Courses offered

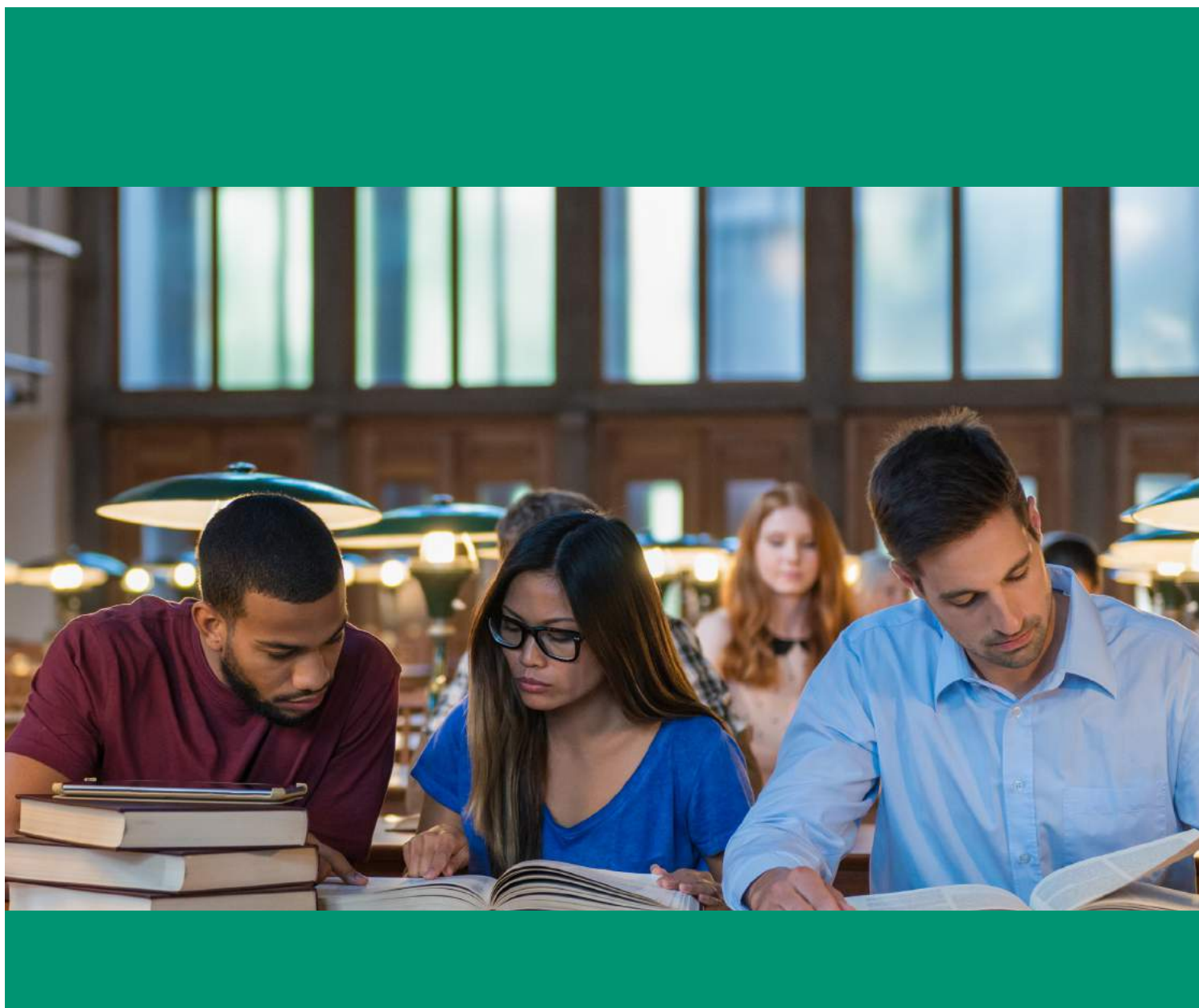
- Building a College-Going Culture for All Students
- College, Career and Academic Planning
- Financial Aid and College Applications
- Maximizing Counselor Impact: Module for Administrators

Participant numbers












- More than 150 professionals took at least one course.
- 40 took three courses to earn a College Access Professional certificate.

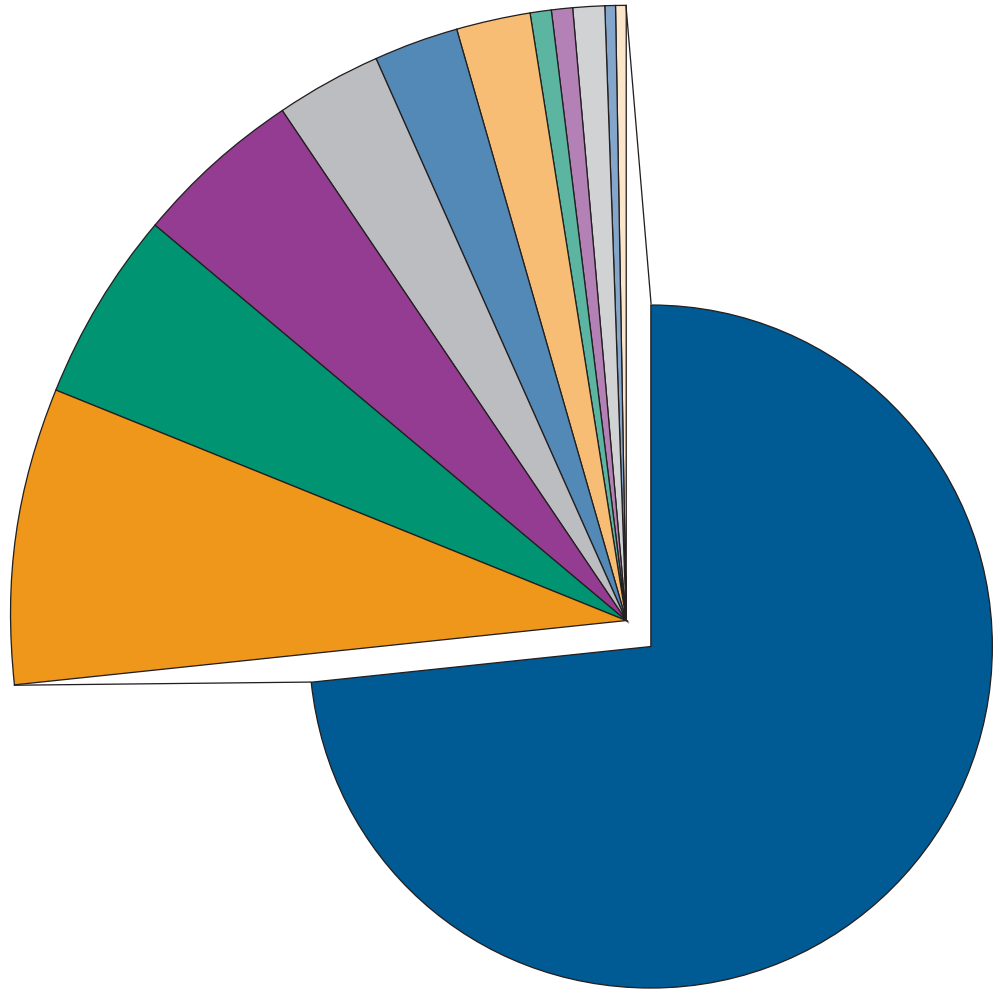


GRANTS & SCHOLARSHIPS



FY 2018 State Appropriations: \$63,482,572

-  Iowa Tuition Grant Not-for-Profit
\$46,630,951
-  Skilled Workforce Shortage Tuition
Grant (Kibbie Grant) \$5,000,000
-  Iowa National Guard Educational
Assistance Program \$3,100,000
-  All Iowa Opportunity Scholarship
\$2,840,854
-  Iowa Vocational-Technical Tuition
Grant \$1,750,185
-  Iowa Tuition Grant For-Profit
\$1,500,000
-  Rural Iowa Primary Care Loan
Repayment \$1,124,502
-  Health Professional Recruitment
Program \$400,973
-  Teach Iowa Scholar \$400,000
-  Registered Nurse & Nurse Educator
Loan Forgiveness \$200,000
-  Iowa Teacher Shortage Loan
Forgiveness \$105,828
-  Administration—General \$429,279



Scholarship & Grant Reserve Fund

Iowa College Aid administers the Scholarship and Grant Reserve Fund authorized in Iowa Code Section 261.20. Iowa Code requires that the Reserve Fund be used “to alleviate a current fiscal year shortfall in appropriations for scholarship or tuition grant programs that have the same nature as the programs for which the monies were originally appropriated.” Monies in this fund do not revert to the State unless the funds exceed the maximum allowed balance, which is equal to 1 percent of the funds appropriated to the Iowa Tuition Grant and Iowa Vocational-Technical Tuition Grant Programs.

Balance on June 30, 2017: \$336,494.00

Balance on June 30, 2018: \$498,811.36

IOWA TUITION GRANT

The Iowa Tuition Grant provides need-based assistance to eligible Iowa residents attending Iowa's private colleges and universities. Grants cover up to eight semesters of full-time undergraduate study. The statutory maximum award is \$6,000, although the maximum for an academic year may be less depending on available funds and the number of eligible students. With the discontinuation of the Iowa Barber and Cosmetology Arts and Sciences Tuition Grant, students at cosmetology schools became eligible for the For-Profit Iowa Tuition Grant in 2017–18. The average award in FY 2018 was 16.0 percent of the average published tuition and fees for students attending not-for-profit colleges or universities and 5.4 percent for students attending for-profit colleges or universities.

Not-for-Profit

Appropriations:	Applicants:	Unduplicated recipients:	Average award:	Total awards:
\$46,630,951	32,791 *	10,065	\$4,602	\$46,322,681

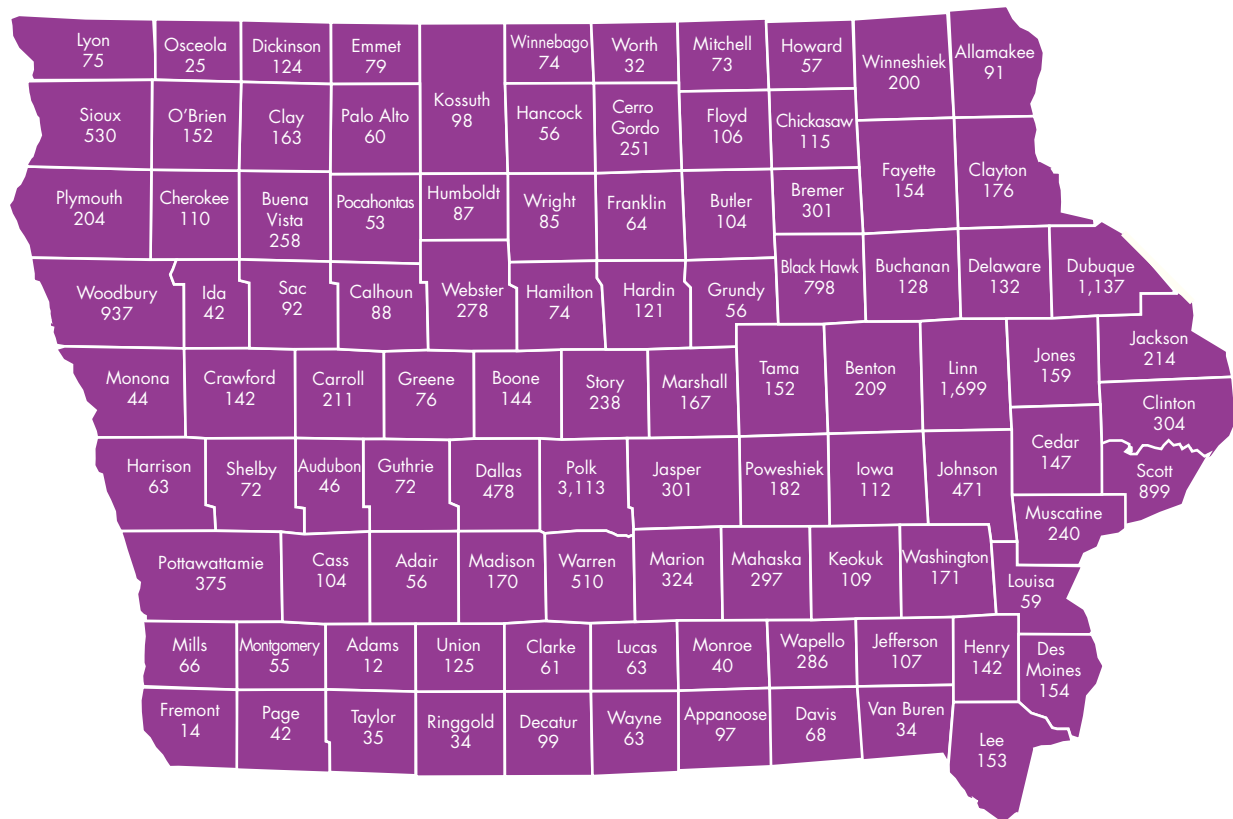
* Number of Iowa residents who filed a FAFSA and listed an Iowa not-for-profit institution

For-Profit

Appropriations:	Applicants:	Unduplicated recipients:	Average award:	Total awards:
\$1,500,000	7,413 **	1,398	\$900	\$1,258,196

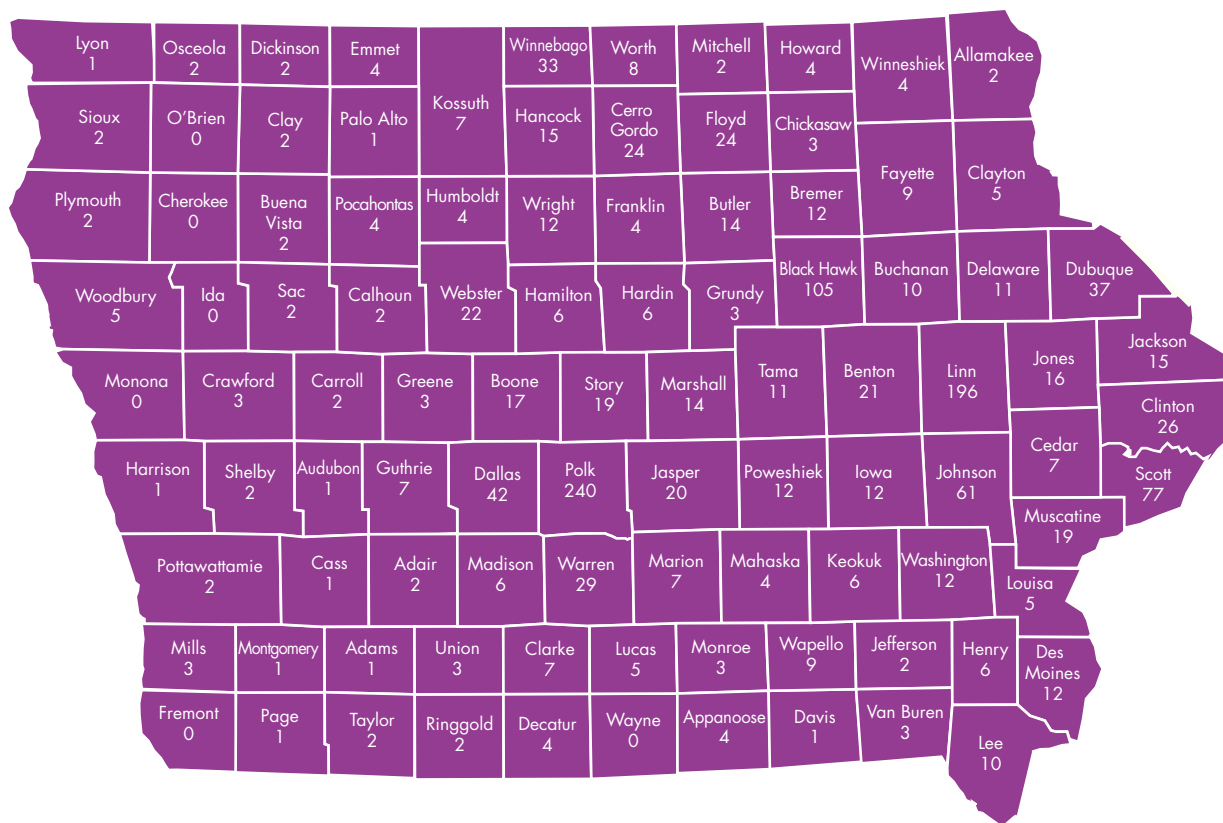
** Number of Iowa residents who filed a FAFSA and listed an Iowa for-profit institution

Iowa Tuition Grants, Not-for-Profit, by County of Residence



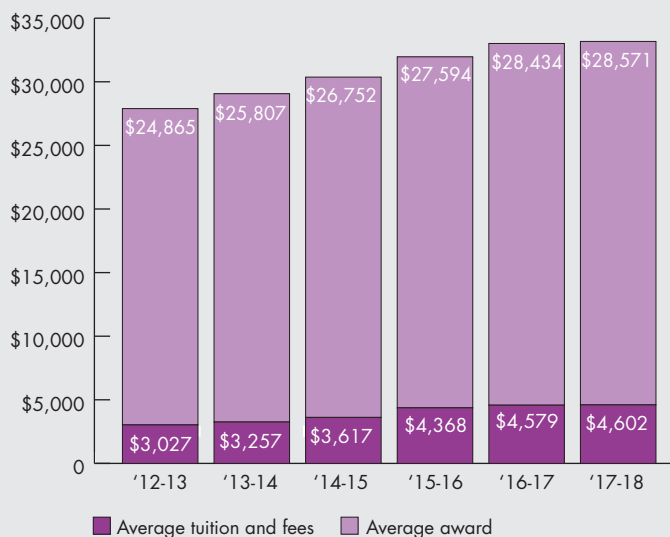
Iowa Tuition Grant (continued)

Iowa Tuition Grants, For-Profit, by County of Residence

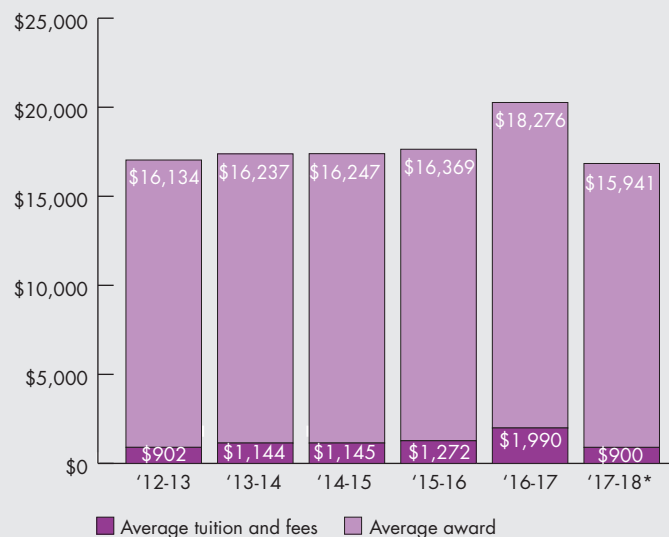


Average Iowa Tuition Grant Award Compared to Average Tuition and Fees

Not-for-Profit



For-Profit



* The pool of for-profit institutions eligible for the Iowa Tuition Grant changed in 2017–18 with the addition of barber and cosmetology schools.

Iowa Tuition Grant (continued)

Iowa Tuition Grant Average Award by Sector

Not-for-profit

\$4,602

For-profit

\$900

0 1000 2000 3000 4000 5000

Iowa Tuition Grant Matches from Educational Institutions

Not-for-profit colleges and universities

Required: 100%

Actual: 281%

Actual match: \$130,293,564

For-profit colleges and universities

Required: 90%

Actual: 236%

Actual match: \$2,961,051



WORKFORCE SHORTAGE GRANTS

Workforce shortage grants target students at Iowa community colleges who are enrolled in career or technical education programs in areas with high workforce demand.

Skilled Workforce Shortage Grant (Kibbie Grant)

The Skilled Workforce Shortage Grant, known as the Kibbie Grant to honor former Iowa Senate President Jack Kibbie, provides need-based financial assistance to Iowa residents enrolled in high-demand career programs at Iowa community colleges. Grants for full-time students are designed to cover one-half of the average tuition and fees and can be adjusted based on financial need and funding available. Kibbie Grants are awarded in conjunction with federal Pell Grants and Iowa Vocational-Technical Tuition Grants. The average award in FY 2018 was approximately 22.6 percent of the average tuition and fees for students attending community colleges in Iowa.

Appropriations:	Applicants:	Unduplicated recipients:	Average award:	Total awards:
\$5,000,000	31,755	4,453	\$1,151	\$5,127,347

* Number of Iowa residents who filed a FAFSA and listed an Iowa community college with an eligible program code

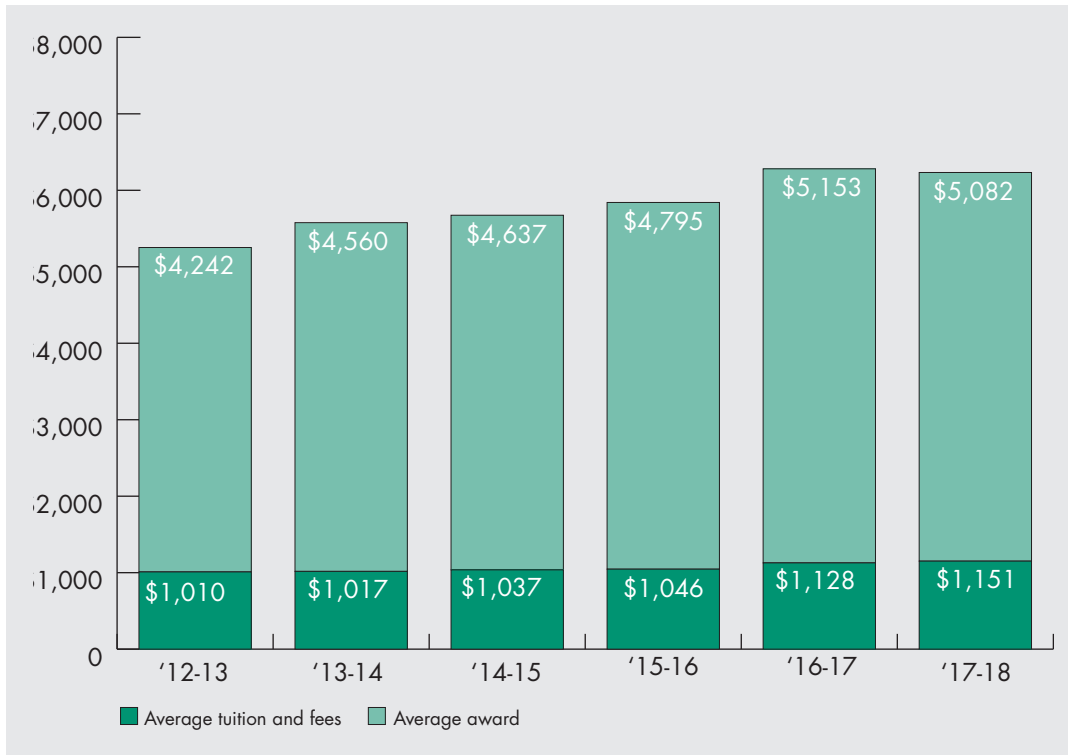
Kibbie Grant Recipients' Programs of Study

Program of study	Number of recipients*	Percentage of total recipients
Nursing and allied health	1,937	43.5%
Information technology/business programs	761	17.1%
Miscellaneous	576	12.9%
Advanced manufacturing/industrial technology programs	501	11.3%
Transportation and logistics programs	439	9.9%
Construction and building trades	227	5.1%
Biotechnology programs	12	0.3%

* Reflects number of unduplicated Kibbie Grant recipients and corresponding expenditures by program of study. Recipients and expenditures are associated to program of study tied to each recipient's first Kibbie Grant in 2017–18.

Workforce Shortage Grants (continued)

Average Kibbie Grant Award Compared to Average Tuition and Fees at Iowa Community Colleges



Iowa Vocational-Technical Tuition Grant

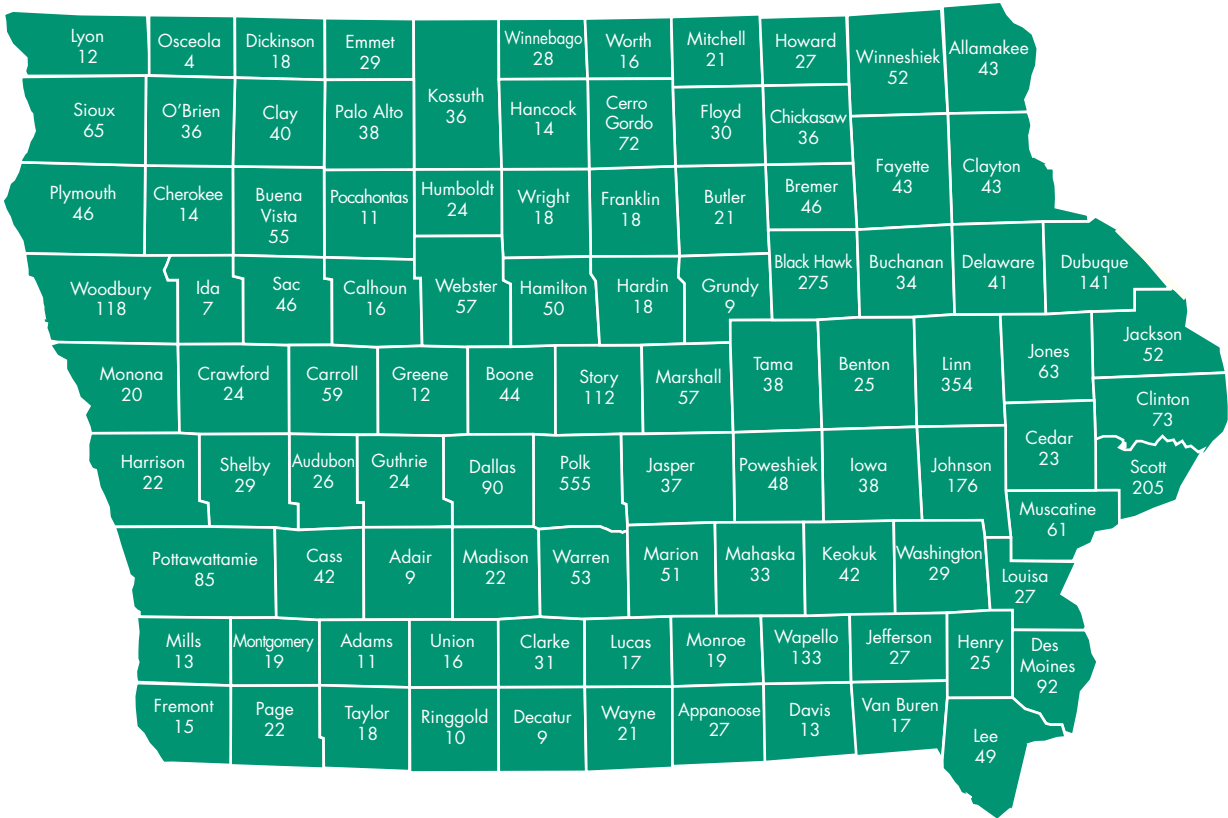
The Iowa Vocational-Technical Tuition Grant assists students enrolled in career programs at Iowa's community colleges. The program encourages students to study in programs critical to economic growth in Iowa. The maximum award is based on a tiered system, with the goal of covering tuition, fees and books in combination with federal Pell Grant funds and the Expected Family Contribution. The average award in FY 2018 was about 12.9 percent of the average published tuition for students attending community college in Iowa. About 61 percent of all Iowa Vocational-Technical Tuition Grant recipients in FY 2018 also received financial assistance through other state-funded programs. More than half of Vocational-Technical Tuition Grant recipients also received a Kibbie Grant.

Appropriations:	Applicants:	Unduplicated recipients:	Average award:	Total awards:
\$1,750,185	31,755*	2,660	\$656	\$1,746,453

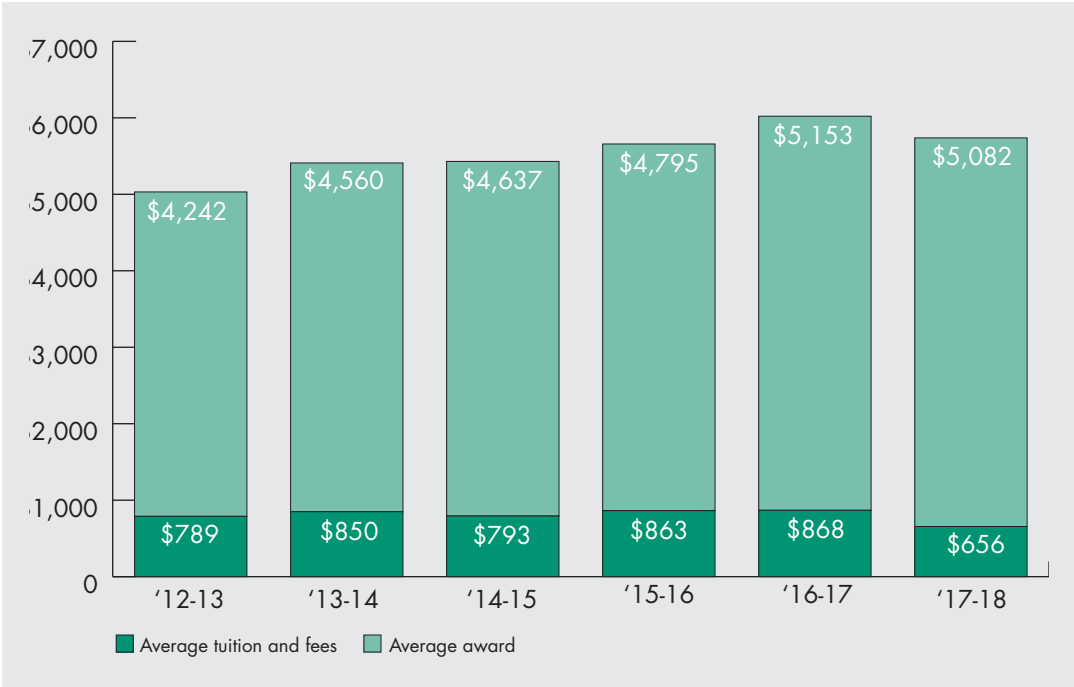
* Number of Iowa residents who filed a FAFSA and listed an Iowa community college with an eligible program code

Workforce Shortage Grants (continued)

Iowa Vocational-Technical Tuition Grants by County of Residence



Average Iowa Vocational-Technical Tuition Grant Award Compared to Average Tuition and Fees at Iowa Community Colleges



ALL IOWA OPPORTUNITY SCHOLARSHIP

The All Iowa Opportunity Scholarship provides financial assistance to students at risk of not pursuing higher education because of social and financial barriers. The award may not exceed the average resident tuition and fee rate established by the Iowa Board of Regents for the award year. To be eligible, a student must be an Iowa resident and enroll in an Iowa college or university as a first-time college freshman within two academic years of graduating from an Iowa high school. Priority is given to applicants who participated in certain federal TRIO programs, graduated from alternative high schools or alternative high school programs, or participated in the Federal GEAR UP Grant program in Iowa. With the discontinuation of the All Iowa Opportunity Foster Care Grant, priority for the All Iowa Opportunity Scholarship now goes to former foster care youth. Priority has also been granted to the surviving children of peace officers killed in the line of duty.

Appropriations:
\$2,840,854

Applicants:
14,069

Unduplicated recipients:
598

Average award:
\$3,786

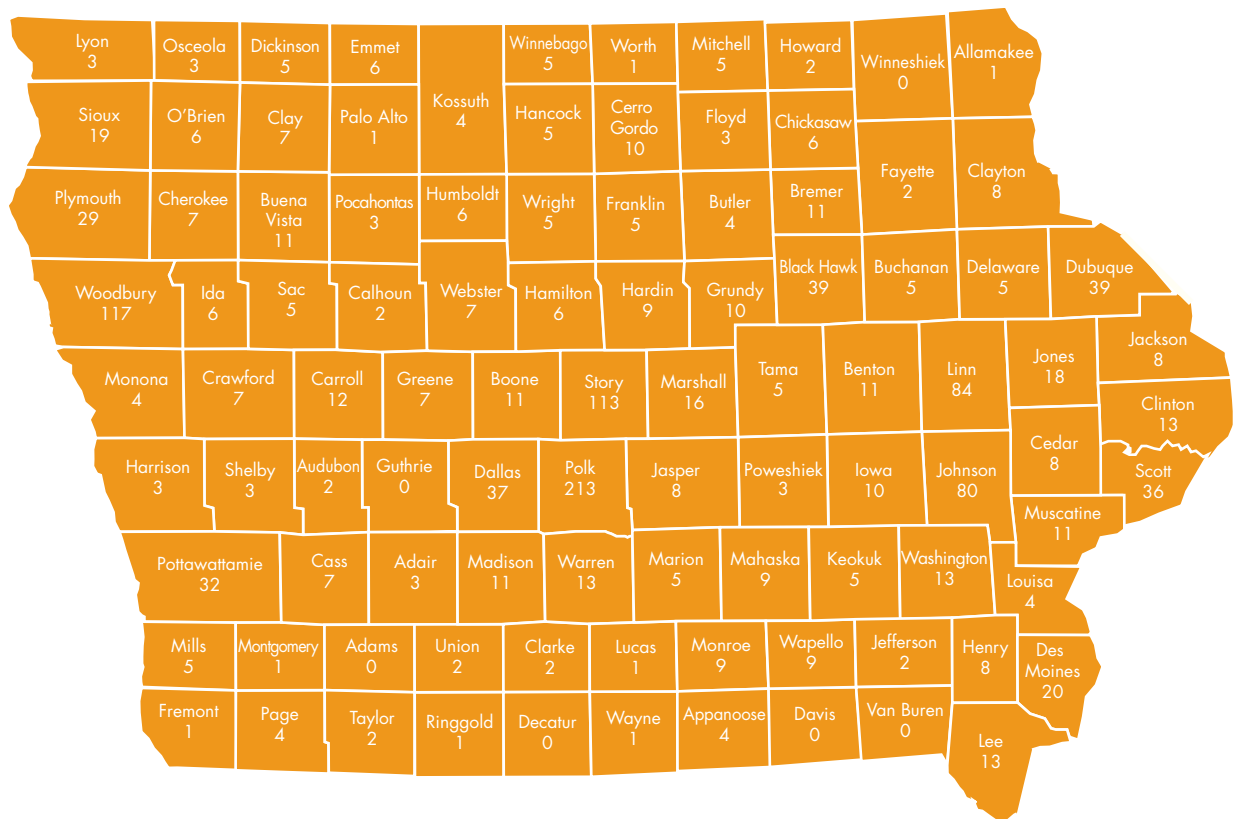
Total awards:
\$2,263,950



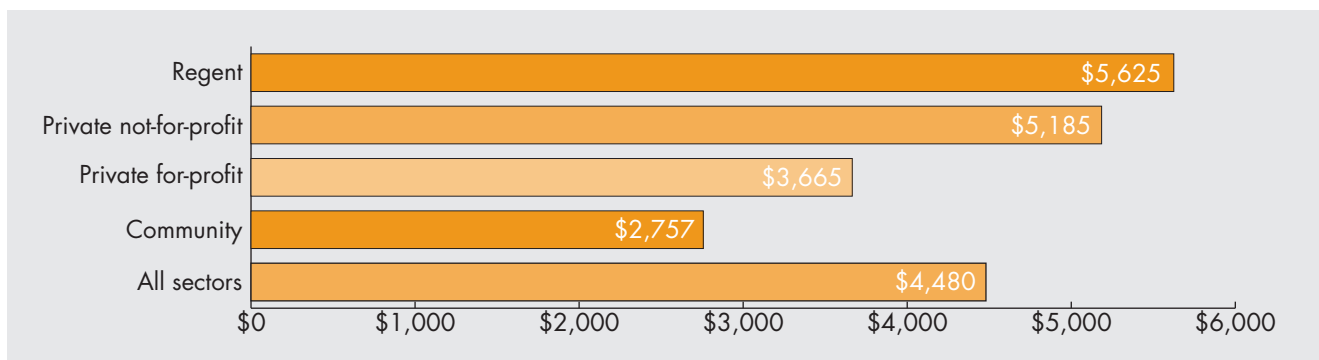
The Iowa National Guard Educational Assistance Program (NGEAP) provides annual awards to members of Iowa Air and Army National Guard units to cover the costs of attending undergraduate programs at Iowa colleges and universities. The Iowa Adjutant General determines eligibility. The maximum award cannot exceed the average tuition rate at Iowa's Regent Universities.

Appropriations: \$3,100,000	Applicants: 1,314	Unduplicated recipients: 844	Average award: \$4,543	Total awards: \$3,834,596
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NGEAP by County of Residence



Average NGEAP Award by Sector



EDUCATION & TRAINING VOUCHER (FEDERAL)

Created in 2002, the Education and Training Voucher (ETV) program is funded by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services to assist former foster care youth with expenses for higher education and job training. Eligible students may receive up to \$5,000 per year for up to five years or until age 23. Awards are sent directly to the college or university and can be used to pay for tuition, fees, books, supplies, room and board, transportation and living expenses. ETV funds can be combined with other grants and scholarships to minimize the need for student loans. Priority for funding is given to undergraduate students. If funding remains available after July 1, graduate level applicants may be awarded in date-received order.

Appropriations: \$589,271	Applicants: 483	Unduplicated recipients: 171	Average award: \$3,547	Total awards: \$606,457
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Recipients of the Education and Training Voucher Program in FY 2018 also received awards through the following programs:

All Iowa Opportunity Scholarship	124
Iowa Tuition Grant	23
Skilled Workforce Shortage Grant (Kibbie Grant)	18
GEAR UP Iowa Scholarship	3



BRANSTAD STATE FAIR SCHOLARSHIP

The Governor Terry E. Branstad Iowa State Fair Scholarship recognizes outstanding Iowa high school seniors who have strong academic and leadership credentials and have actively participated in the Iowa State Fair. The scholarship funds up to 10 awards not to exceed \$5,000 per award. Scholarships are awarded for the recipient's first year at an Iowa college or university and cannot exceed financial need.

Applicants:
103

Unduplicated recipients:
4

Average award:
\$2,750

Total awards:
\$11,000



State Fair scholarship: Two dreams fulfilled at once

Finding out she had won the Governor Terry E. Branstad Iowa State Fair Scholarship was naturally an exciting moment for Jessica Schmitt. But it might have been topped by the moment she realized she would receive the award from its namesake, who now serves as U.S. Ambassador to China.

"It's always been a dream of mine to meet Ambassador Branstad," she says. "My dad met him a long time ago, during one of his first years in office, and my sister met him when she was Iowa Dairy Princess. I kept thinking, 'When is it going to be my turn?' Even on the drive to Des Moines I was wondering if he'd be there, but I knew he had to be busy with work in China." Seeing Branstad on the fair stage waiting for the presentation made the day even more special for Jessica and her family.

Jessica graduated from Turkey Valley Junior-Senior High School and is double-majoring in dairy science and agricultural communications at Iowa State University. This award will reduce the number of hours she'll need to work and, she hopes, eliminate the need for student loans.

Jessica wasn't sure she'd qualify for the State Fair scholarship because she started showing cattle at age 14—later than many participants. "Then I looked through the application," she says. "I realized they wanted people who truly love the State Fair and worked hard to get there. That's me. The State Fair means so much to me."

And now she has one more fantastic fair memory.



*Jessica Schmitt and former
Iowa Governor Terry Branstad*

GEAR UP IOWA SCHOLARSHIP (FEDERAL + MATCH)



The GEAR UP Iowa Scholarship is awarded to students in the first GEAR UP Iowa cohort (high school graduating class of 2014). For more information about GEAR UP Iowa, see page 18.

Applicants: 1,861	Unduplicated recipients: 1,391	Average award: \$1,764	Total awards: \$2,454,240
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Where FY 2018 GEAR UP Iowa Scholarship recipients were enrolled:

Regent universities in Iowa	593
Private colleges and universities in Iowa	269
Iowa community colleges	349
Barber or cosmetology schools in Iowa	1
Out-of-state colleges or universities	196



GEAR UP Iowa Scholarship: Ready to guide others toward college

GEAR UP Iowa didn't just steer Kpandi Lumeh toward college—it guided her field of study, too. "My experience with my GEAR UP coaches and other mentors along the way influenced me into pursuing a higher ed degree," she says.

A 2014 graduate of Des Moines East High School, Kpandi earned a bachelor's degree in psychology before enrolling in the student affairs and higher education master's program at Miami University. "Once I finish my masters, I would like to work for a few years, preferably internationally, and then obtain my Ph.D. in counseling psychology," she says.

Kpandi says she's grateful for the assistance of her GEAR UP advisors in preparing for college and then applying for admission and financial aid. She found college visits especially helpful as she navigated the process.

One of Kpandi's big lessons from GEAR UP Iowa is one she hopes the new cohort will learn: "This is cliché, but you can do it! Not only do you belong in a college space, but you also deserve to be there."



*Kpandi Lumeh,
GEAR UP Iowa 1.0 alum*



GEAR UP Iowa Scholarship: Motivation is as important as money

The GEAR UP Iowa Scholarship didn't just help Emily Barske pay for her college education. "Giving a scholarship helps students realize they are worth being invested in, which serves as motivation to continue to seek out more opportunities," she says. "It's more than just the one scholarship. It's a chance to show students that if they put in the effort, they can get their education funded."

Emily graduated from Marshalltown High School, then from Iowa State University. She now works as news editor for the Marshalltown Times-Republican and recently returned to Marshalltown High for an assembly celebrating GEAR UP Iowa. She told current students about her experience studying journalism with Pulitzer Prize-winning professors at Iowa State and about how much the renewable GEAR UP Iowa Scholarship helped her.

Emily plans to continue working in journalism and would like to eventually earn a masters degree so that she can teach at the college level. Even as she looks forward, she looks back and appreciates the support she got from GEAR UP. "GEAR UP Iowa made me look at colleges I probably wouldn't have if I wasn't a part of the program," she says. "That helped me keep my options more open."



*Emily Barske,
GEAR UP Iowa 1.0 alum*



REPAYMENT PROGRAMS (FOR WORKING ADULTS)

Loan repayment and incentive programs encourage college students and graduates to enter and continue to work in designated high-need careers. These programs help reduce student loan debt while allowing Iowans to pursue their career goals. They also help address Iowa’s future workforce needs by encouraging college-educated workers to remain in the state. Some programs make payments directly to the recipient’s student loan servicer to reduce the balance owed, while others provide the option of an income bonus for eligible recipients who meet specified criteria.

Rural Iowa Primary Care Loan Repayment

The Rural Iowa Primary Care Loan Repayment Program was established to address critical doctor shortages in rural Iowa communities. The program provides loan repayment incentives to individuals who practice in specified locations for up to five years. Applicants must attend either the Des Moines University of Osteopathic Medicine or the University of Iowa Carver College of Medicine, be enrolled full-time in a program leading to a doctor of medicine or a doctor of osteopathy degree, receive a recommendation from their college and agree to work for a minimum of five consecutive years in an eligible service commitment area following completion of residency. An eligible service commitment area is any Iowa city with a population of less than 26,000 located more than 20 miles from a city with a population of at least 50,000. This award is paid in five increments toward outstanding Federal Subsidized Stafford, Unsubsidized Stafford, Graduate PLUS and Perkins Loan balances at the end of each 12-month employment period. Service commitment areas must provide a \$20,000 matching contribution to a trust fund held by the State of Iowa that will fund future awards.

Appropriations:	Unduplicated recipients:	Average award:	Total awards:
\$1,124,502	12	\$185,461	\$2,225,534

Health Professional Recruitment

The Health Professional Recruitment Program was established to increase the number of osteopathic doctors, physician assistants, podiatrists and physical therapists practicing in high-need communities in Iowa. The program provides loan repayment benefits to Des Moines University graduates who practice in specified locations for up to four years. Preference is given to Iowa residents and communities of 10,000 or less that are located in a federally designated Health Professional Shortage Area or a Governor’s Designated Rural Health Clinic county. The maximum award is \$50,000, which is paid in four increments toward outstanding Federal Stafford Loan and Grad PLUS Loan balances at the end of each 12-month employment period. The state-funded award must be matched, dollar for dollar, by the local community or hospital in need of health care providers.

Appropriations:	Unduplicated recipients:	Average award:	Total awards:
\$400,973	10	\$26,800	\$268,000

Repayment Programs (continued)

Teach Iowa Scholar

The Teach Iowa Scholar Program provides qualified Iowa teachers with awards for teaching in designated shortage areas in Iowa for up to five years. Applicants must have graduated in the top 25 percent academically of their teacher preparation programs; be employed full-time in designated shortage areas at Iowa school districts, area education agencies, charter schools or accredited nonpublic schools recognized and approved by the Iowa Department of Education; and have Iowa teaching licenses and endorsements in their shortage areas. Awards from the Teach Iowa Scholar Program can be paid toward an outstanding student loan balance or can be paid directly to the teacher as an income supplement. Teachers can receive payments for five years as long as they continue to teach in shortage areas.

Appropriations: \$400,000	Applicants: 476	Unduplicated recipients: 165	Average award: \$3,994	Total awards: \$659,000
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FY 2018 Teach Iowa Scholar recipients were employed in Iowa as teachers in the following subject areas:

Agriculture	4	Instructional strategist I (5–12)	9
All science	2	Instructional strategist I (K–8)	27
Biology	8	Instructional strategist II BD-LD	8
Chemistry	3	Instructional strategist II MD	9
Deaf or hard of hearing	1	Mathematics	23
Early childhood pre-K	2	Middle school	7
Early childhood special education	3	Professional school counselor	20
English as a Second Language	8	Special education (pre-K–3)	5
Family and consumer science	6	Teacher librarian	5
Foreign language	5	Talented and gifted	6
Industrial technology	3	Visually impaired	1

Repayment Programs (continued)

Registered Nurse & Nurse Educator Loan Forgiveness

The Iowa Registered Nurse and Nurse Educator Loan Forgiveness Program provides Federal Stafford Loan repayment assistance to registered nurses employed in Iowa and nurse educators teaching at eligible Iowa colleges and universities. Up to 20 percent of a borrower's total Federal Stafford Loan balance may be forgiven each year for up to five consecutive years. The maximum annual award may not exceed the average resident tuition rate established by the Iowa Board of Regents for the first year following the recipient's college graduation. Nurse educator applicants are given priority.

Appropriations:	Applicants:	Unduplicated recipients:	Average award:	Total awards:
\$200,000	324	21	\$2,759	\$57,946

Iowa Teacher Shortage Loan Forgiveness

The Iowa Teacher Shortage Loan Forgiveness Program provides Federal Stafford and Consolidation Loan repayment assistance to teachers serving in high-need positions in Iowa's elementary and secondary schools. Up to 20 percent of a borrower's total Federal Stafford or Consolidation Loan balance may be forgiven each year for up to five consecutive years. The maximum annual award may not exceed the average resident tuition rate established by the Iowa Board of Regents for the first year following the recipient's college graduation. Teachers must teach in instructional positions in one of the shortage areas defined by the Iowa Department of Education. Principal, early childhood and administrative positions are not eligible.

Appropriations:	Applicants:	Unduplicated recipients:	Average award:	Total awards:
\$105,828	97*	96	\$4,643	\$445,710

* Renewal applications only.

John R. Justice Student Loan Repayment (FEDERAL)

The federally funded John R. Justice Student Loan Repayment Program provides loan repayment awards to public prosecutors and defenders employed in Iowa who agree to remain in their positions for three years. Renewal is contingent on funding, employment and completion of renewal applications. Applicants must be licensed to practice law and employed full-time. Eligible debt includes Federal Subsidized Stafford loans, Federal Unsubsidized Stafford loans, Federal Perkins loans, Federal Graduate PLUS loans and Federal Consolidation loans (excluding those used to repay Federal Parent PLUS Loans).

Appropriations:	Applicants:	Unduplicated recipients:	Average award:	Total awards:
\$36,585	7	7	\$5,226	\$36,585

Iowa Teacher Shortage Forgivable Loan Program

The Iowa Teacher Shortage Forgivable Loan Program was created in 1999 to provide an incentive for Iowans to become teachers in high-need positions in Iowa's elementary and secondary schools. Since the program began in 1999, through its end in 2008, a total of 2,180 students were awarded forgivable loans and 1,143 qualified teachers received over \$5 million in loan forgiveness.

	# of recipients	Dollar amount
Students in school	2	\$9,088.48
Currently in deferment/forbearance	1	\$1,514.09
Fulfilled/fulfilling teaching obligation	1,146	\$5,356,335
Currently in repayment	62	\$140,982
Repaid	733	\$2,784,990
Other (default, bankruptcy, etc.)	42	\$117,616



ADMINISTRATION





The creation of two new positions in FY 2018 (an Executive Officer 2 and a Statistical Research Analyst 3) doubled the Iowa College Aid Research and Evaluation Team, which continuously evaluates the agency's grants and programs. The team also analyzes data for distribution to the media and the public, maintains a Higher Education Data Center on the agency's website and tracks Iowans along a "student continuum" from FAFSA completion to college graduation.

The team released two studies in FY 2018 assessing the effectiveness of agency programs:

- Eastern Iowa schools taking part in GEAR UP Iowa from 2008 to 2014 saw an increase in college enrollment rates and a substantial reduction in the enrollment gap for low-income schools. The study examined data for more than 17,000 students, both GEAR UP and non-GEAR UP, in the six eastern Iowa counties covered by the Mississippi Bend Area Education Agency. After adjusting for student demographics such as race, sex and income, the study found that college enrollment rates for GEAR UP Iowa students were 3 to 4 percentage points higher. Those numbers represent a decrease by half in the college enrollment gap between students of lower socioeconomic status and higher socioeconomic status. Although the study found that GEAR UP Iowa did not have a significant effect on college persistence, a consistent persistence rate indicates that GEAR UP did not send underprepared students, who would be likely to drop out, to college.
- Iowa community college students who receive financial aid for vocational-technical training are twice as likely to earn credentials as similar students who don't receive the grants. The study looked at students who received the Skilled Workforce Shortage Tuition Grant (Kibbie Grant), the Iowa Vocational-Technical Tuition Grant (IVTG) or a combination of the two. The recipients in the study began community college in 2012–13, the first year the Kibbie Grant was available. The study found that 48 percent of grant recipients had earned a credential by the spring of 2017. Among students who met the same financial and other criteria but did not receive the grants, that figure was 25 percent.



Iowa College Aid regulates postsecondary institutions and other instructional schools under Iowa Code Chapter 261B and ensures financial protections for certain Iowa students under sections of Iowa Code Chapter 714.

Iowa Code Chapter 261B requires certain colleges and universities to be authorized by Iowa College Aid to offer postsecondary programs before they operate in Iowa. Generally, this law applies to out-of-state institutions or corporations and newly created degree-granting institutions that have a presence in Iowa. Iowa College Aid evaluates the suitability of each institution to offer postsecondary programs to Iowa residents and works with registered institutions to maintain compliance. Iowa Code Section 714.18 requires every person, firm, association or corporation that conducts a postsecondary education course in Iowa or solicits the sale of such a course to provide financial protections for its students, regardless of whether the school offers a postsecondary credential. In addition, Section 714.23 prescribes a minimum tuition refund for an Iowa resident who withdraws from a for-profit postsecondary institution that offers a program of more than four months in length that leads to a recognized educational credential. Iowa College Aid works with many instructional schools and postsecondary institutions to ensure that they are in compliance with these provisions of state law. Title 34, Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) Section 600.9(a)(1) describes a state's responsibility to provide a process to review and appropriately act on complaints concerning institutions that are authorized to operate in the state as a condition of the institution's eligibility to participate in federal student aid programs. Iowa College Aid provides that process.

In FY 2018, Iowa College Aid:

- Registered 49 institutions to offer on-campus and distance education to Iowans
- Approved 68 institutions to offer on-campus or distance education under exemptions
- Approved 46 Iowa schools to initiate or renew participation in SARA (State Authorization Reciprocity Agreements)
- Approved 188 schools to operate in Iowa or offer programs/classes to Iowans with evidence of financial responsibility
- Received and vetted 29 student complaints

FINAL FY 2018 OPERATING EXPENSES

	STATE APPROPRIATED PROGRAMS	STATE MANDATED/ UNFUNDED PROGRAMS*	FEDERAL GRANT/ PROGRAMS	FFELP/PLP COLLECTIONS, GREAT LAKES*	TOTALS
FY 2018 Number of Programs	12	7	6	2	27
FY 2018 Appropriation/Grant/Fee Total	65,442,877	11,000	3,076,134	-	68,530,011
FY 2018 FTE	8	8	20	-	36
Personnel	571,408	574,892	1,564,404	20,905	2,731,609
Travel	3,824	6,562	99,638	140	110,164
Supplies, Printing & Binding, Postage	18,871	19,952	71,565	690	111,078
Support—Rent, Communication, Prof/ Outside Service	59,063	59,653	574,766	14,423	707,905
State Legal, Audit, State Reimbursements	11,180	11,978	37,952	409	61,519
Advertising & Publicity	3,371	3,391	11,119	123	18,004
IT Services, Equipment Repair	100,723	101,728	290,627	3,685	496,763
Total Operating Cost	768,440	778,156	2,650,071	40,375	4,237,042
TOTAL EXPENDITURES BY PROGRAM	768,440	778,156	2,650,071	40,375	4,237,042
TOTAL REVENUE BY PROGRAM	429,279	155,392	706,463	2,580,083	3,871,217
NET GAIN (LOSS)	(339,161)	(622,764)	(1,943,608)	2,539,708	(365,825)
Overall % of Total Expense	18.14%	18.37%	62.55%	0.95%	100%

* Great Lakes Higher Education Corp. & Affiliates changed its name to Ascendium Education Group on November 15, 2018



Because College Changes Everything



475 SW Fifth St.
Des Moines, IA 50309-4608
877-272-4456
IowaCollegeAid.gov